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Gorbachev speaks

Still red, but ready for talks, reforms

NEW YORK, May 27, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has declared unequivocally that he is a communist and asked for respect and understanding of his views.

In an interview with Time magazine during which he discussed his ideological beliefs Gorbachev said: "Well, I am a communist. I'm sure that answer doesn't make you too enthusiastic, but it shouldn't make you panic either. It's quite normal."

Gorbachev, who has presided over some of the greatest changes in Soviet society since the 1917 Russian Revolution that introduced communism, said he believed that to be a communist today meant "to put universal human lives above everything else."

Speaking in advance of next week's summit meeting with President George Bush in Washington, Gorbachev vigorously defended founders of communism such as Marx, Engels and Lenin saying they made an enormous contribution to modern civilisation.

"They bear no responsibility for the distortions of that idea that occurred when it was put into practice," Gorbachev said.

East Europe

He said the changes in Eastern Europe which had brought down communist parties there came about because the people rejected "the lack of freedom."

"They're rejecting a system that had done violence to their national character and national rights; they're rejecting ossified ways of thinking," he said.

Gorbachev said what he valued in Marxist theory was "the idea of constant movement and development and also its rigorous respect for the truth."

"I detest lies," Gorbachev said, "and I resent anyone who makes one-sided judgements and pretends to have absolute knowledge about what is going to happen and what should be done."

Nato, Warsaw Pact

Gorbachev said Nato and the Warsaw Pact—the two alliances that shape the political map of Europe—should be scrapped in favour of pan-European unity.

Gorbachev also said the United States wanted the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to dominate a new unified Europe, and vowed the Soviet Union would never allow this.

"We are already entering a new phase that should be characterised by the establishment of permanent security structures instead of Nato and the Warsaw treaty organisation," Time quoted Gorbachev as saying.

"I envision Europe as a union of states with common institutions," he said.

Gorbachev said the superpowers had similar visions for the future of Europe but conflicts remain.

Bush's call for a "Europe whole and free" and the Soviet vision of a "common European home" strike a similar note, said Gorbachev. But he added, "there are some differences."

The United States wants Nato, strengthened by a unified Germany, to dominate Europe, said the Soviet leader, adding, "we will never agree to assign it (Nato) the leading role in building a new Europe."

Nato was "destined from the start to be hostile to the Soviet, as a force that whipped up the arms race and the danger of war," he said.

"We are ready to bring our soldiers home. We're already doing so... the Americans are looking for any pretext to delay their (troops) departure," said Gorbachev.

Khaddafi fails to persuade Assad; five leaders not attending; Soviets assure on Jewish influx



HH the Amir with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Emergency Baghdad summit opens today

Egypt to submit working paper on Mideast peace

BAGHDAD, May 27, (Agencies): At least five of the Arab world's 21 leaders will be missing when a summit meeting opens tomorrow, deflating a show of unity sought by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the PLO.

Saddam Hussein welcomed Arab leaders to Baghdad today for the summit called by the PLO over Arab fears that thousands of Soviet Jews pouring into Israel could displace Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The summit was widely expected to underpin the claim by Iraq, which has come under a onslaught of Western criticism for its weapons programme and anti-Israel rhetoric, as the country most likely to match Israel's military might and Washington's political influence.

With no clear way forward towards a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and with the Soviet Union tied up in internal problems, Arab rulers say the region is under unprecedented pressure to bow to US and Israeli dictates.

82 killed in Pakistan violence

Curfew imposed; army deployed

HYDERABAD, May 27, (Agencies): Security forces killed 60 people and wounded more than 200 today after Muslim leaders called on residents of this southern city to defy a 13-day-old curfew, police and witnesses said. The army took control of the city of Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, in the provincial capital of Karachi, 22 people died and at least 75 others were wounded in sniper attacks that continued until the army was sent in to halt the violence.

Police blame a militant faction of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, a small political party representing descendants of Muslim Indians who immigrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

The MQM is demanding recognition of Mohajirs as Pakistan's fifth nationality, along with Punjabis, Pathans, Sindhis and Baluch.

Thousands of troops swept across Sindh last week and arrested more than 800 suspects in the continuing violence, including members of the MQM and their rivals in Benazir's Pakistan People's Party.

The MQM once backed Benazir's government but withdrew its support last November, forcing a no-confidence vote that the prime minister narrowly survived.

According to official count, at least 135 people have been killed and hundreds wounded since May 15 in Hyderabad, resulting in the imposition of curfew that brought the city of three million people to a virtual standstill.

In Karachi, ethnic strife has given way to political leading that has turned the country's financial and industrial centre into a battleground. The main combatants are Benazir's supporters and MQM members.

Today in Hyderabad, sporadic gun battles broke out between residents and security forces—including soldiers, police and paramilitary troops—patrolling the city.

Hundreds of people, many of them women clutching copies of the Holy Quran, poured into the streets at the urging of Muslim leaders.

(Continued on Page 2)

Soviets sell gold in Gulf

KUWAIT, May 27, (AP): The Soviet Union, to obtain hard currency, is offering gold to banks, investment establishments and merchants in Kuwait and other Gulf states, a local daily reported today.

The paper quoting "reliable sources" that it did not name, said that with some exceptions the Kuwaiti and other Gulf banks contacted by the Soviet Union rejected the offer because most of them as a matter of general policy do not deal in gold.

which has both ethnic and political roots, police said.

In Islamabad, the federal capital, opposition members of parliament demanded the dismissal of the provincial government and declaration of a state of emergency in Sindh, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province.

Sindh has been wracked by ethnic strife and political rivalries in recent years. Kidnappings, assassinations and random sniper fire have killed more than 2,000 people.



Khan waves

Kashmir militant leader Amanullah Khan (right) waves to his Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front supporters on arrival at Islamabad airport yesterday. Amanullah returned from a tour of the United States and several European countries in an effort to gain support for a Muslim uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir. (Reuters wirephoto) See Page 7 & 12

Kashmir 'N-alert' alarms Powers

LONDON, May 27, (Reuters): The US and Soviet governments fear nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir after intelligence reports that both countries are readying atomic arsenals, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper said.

Quoting unnamed US intelligence and Defence Department sources, the newspaper said spy satellites had photographed armed convoys leaving Pakistani nuclear complexes at Kahuta, near Islamabad, and heading for military airfields.

The film also showed what analysts believed to be nuclear bomb racks being fitted to Pakistan's F-16 aircraft. The newspaper's defence correspondent in Washington said the Soviet Union had informed US authorities that India appeared to be putting nuclear weapons on alert as part of its preparations for war.

It said the two superpowers were deeply alarmed about the intelligence findings and quoted one senior US official as saying the government feared a "major catastrophe" in the sub-continent.

India and Pakistan have repeatedly accused each other of testing nuclear bombs while denying they have developed such weapons themselves. India exploded an atomic device in 1974 but says it did not go on to make nuclear bombs.

Reports by defence analysts have concluded that both countries are carrying out nuclear research. One study by US researchers last year said Pakistan was developing a bomb to use with the F-16 aircraft.

US intelligence agents said they could not be sure whether Pakistan was genuinely preparing for war or just pretending to do so to deter India.

Soviet intelligence relayed to Washington said that in the past three weeks, India had heavily reinforced its troops along the border with Pakistan and shown signs of preparing its nuclear weapons for use, the Sunday Times said.

The newspaper said Pakistan might use nuclear weapons because it would be heavily outnumbered by India if war starts. It said the failure of a peace

(Continued on Page 2)

Simply amazing



Baby with four arms

Freak baby born in eastern Turkey with four arms and four legs awaits corrective surgery at an Istanbul hospital. Hospital sources were non-committal on the boy baby's survival after the operation scheduled for Monday (Reuters wirephoto)

Simply the best



Tina turns

American rock star Tina Turner performing in the stadium of Cologne in front of tens of thousands of spectators on Saturday. The concert in Cologne is Tina Turner's second open air concert in Germany this summer. (Reuters wirephoto)

"There is increasing anxiety in the Arab world because of the dangers threatening the security of our nation," Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain said on arrival in Baghdad.

"We are going through an extremely bad period," said his Qatari neighbour, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

The heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, UAE and Yemen also arrived in Baghdad today, joining those of Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, who came yesterday.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who counts as head of Palestine, arrived with Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Saddam Hussein and his entourage broke into applause when Ali Abdullah Saleh, elected president of the new united Yemen last Tuesday stepped out of the plane from Sanaa.

Syria, Iraq's arch-rival for more than two decades, said its President Hafez Al Assad would boycott the meetings, shattering Arafat hopes that they could present a united front against an allegedly hostile world.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Syria's ally, quickly followed suit.

Algeria announced yesterday that President Chadli Benjedid would also stay away. It gave no reason but Algerian officials and newspapers had said a summit without Syria was pointless.

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi, the ideal mediator between Baghdad and Damascus, spent Saturday night in the Syrian capital in a last-minute effort to win over President Assad.

But today Assad's spokesman, Jourjan Kourieh, repeated the Syrian position that a summit should be well prepared. Arafat diplomats in Baghdad said Assad might at least send a lower-level Syrian delegation to represent him.

Morocco's King Hassan and Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman also said they will not attend the

(Continued on Page 2)

Cheating wife hurt in jump

AN expatriate female beautician was badly injured when she threw herself from the window of her neighbour's residence after she was discovered in a compromising situation with a neighbour by her husband.

According to a local daily, the husband, 39, had previously complained to the Abu Halifa police station that he suspected his wife who worked as a beautician in one of the suburbs in Jabriya of having an illicit relationship with his neighbour. He said that he believed the affair was going on for about a year and half.

Weather

NORMAL summer weather with light to moderate north westerly wind. State of sea: slight to moderate. High water: 3.00 am, 1.00 pm. Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm. Sunrise: 4.50 am. Sunset: 6.41 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 43°C 109°F. Ahmadi: 43°C 109°F. Fahlaka: 41°C 106°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F. Ahmadi: 25°C 77°F. Fahlaka: 24°C 75°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 45°C 113°F. Ahmadi: 40°C 104°F. Fahlaka: 42°C 108°F. Minimum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 26°C 79°F. Ahmadi: 26°C 79°F. Fahlaka: 25°C 77°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 24 per cent. Ahmadi: 27 per cent. Fahlaka: 30 per cent.

Six killed, 11 injured as militants attack soldiers in the capital of Soviet Armenia

MOSCOW, May 27, (AP): Militants attacked soldiers today at the main train station in Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, and at least six people were killed and 11 injured in the fighting, Soviet media and Armenians said.

The bloody assault was the latest surge of violence in the tense republic and the first time fighting has broken out in such a public place in the capital.

Six militants were killed and 10 Interior Ministry soldiers were wounded, three of them critically, the official Soviet news agency Tass reported. One civilian bystander also was hospitalised with bullet

wounds, Tass said. The news agency did not identify the attackers or their motive. But Armenia has been locked in a violent struggle with neighbouring Azerbaijan for control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The soldiers were returning from escorting a train to Kafan, a city about 200 kilometres (120 miles) southeast of Yerevan, when the shooting broke out at 8:50 am (0350 GMT), Tass said.

Soviet soldiers often escort trains bringing food and other supplies to Armenia because Azerbaijanis have tried in the past to cut off rail traffic. The

southeast corner of Armenia near Kafan has been one of the most tense areas in the dispute between Armenians, who are mostly Christians, and Azerbaijanis, who are predominantly Muslims.

Since the feud erupted two years ago, several hundred people have been killed, and hundreds of thousands have fled their homes. Soviet soldiers have been sent into both republics in an effort to quell the fighting.

Satenik Hramazyan, a spokeswoman for the Armenian national movement political organisation, confirmed in a telephone interview from

Yerevan that the shoot-out had taken place at the train station, but she said no details were available. She said the movement did not know who attacked the soldiers.

The movement held a rally on Opera Square in downtown Yerevan this afternoon to tell citizens what it knew about the attack, she said.

Tass said the military patrol was attacked by a group of up to 15 armed men. The Soviet soldiers, "using their right to use weapons to repel an attack, returned fire," Tass said.

Gorbachev



Gorbachev addresses the Russian parliament during a debate on 'sovereignty'. (Reuters wirephoto)

(Continued from Page 1)

"But I do expect the differences to be narrowed as a result of my discussions with President Bush. I hope the character of the relationship I've developed with the President will permit us to move forward rather than backward in our discussions."

"One other point on this subject," Gorbachev said: "It sometimes seems to me that some in the West pretend to be more enthusiastic about German unification than they really are. They even hope to use it to put a brake on unification so that we will get the blame and end up at loggerheads with the Germans."

Changes

Gorbachev said previously that he wanted progress at those talks, but that those who favoured a united Germany in NATO were disturbing the delicate balance in Europe.

Gorbachev has compared the

magnitude of changes under way in the Soviet Union to the 1917 Russian Revolution that introduced communism, and he predicted major economic upheaval in the years ahead.

He said he expected his proposed radical reform of the economy to trigger inflation and unemployment and seemed to acknowledge there could be large amounts of each.

"To put it briefly, what we're talking about is a shift in direction comparable in magnitude to the October (1917) Revolution, because we will be replacing one economic and political model with another," he said.

Gorbachev said the transitional phase alone, when market mechanisms and infrastructure would be set up, would take up to two years. Attaining a real market economy would take "a long time," he said.

Asked if the reshaping of the economy would bring both infla-

tion and unemployment, and possibly large amounts of each, Gorbachev replied: "I think both things will happen."

Baltics

Gorbachev said that all 15 Soviet republics should be sovereign and said Moscow's dispute with the breakaway republic of Lithuania could be solved politically.

"There should be real sovereignty for the republics in all spheres of their life," Gorbachev said.

But he said some citizens were exploiting democratic change to further their particular nationalistic goals.

More trust

The Soviet leader said he was optimistic that Moscow's dispute with breakaway Lithuania could be solved.

"I'm speaking about the Baltics almost every day. We're seeking a political solution," he

said. Gorbachev said he and President Bush trust each other more now than they did at their last summit meeting six months ago in Malta.

Gorbachev also said superpower relations had changed for the better since the last time he was in Washington 2-1/2 years ago.

But he warned that the two nations had to keep working on improving their relations because the cold war could return at any moment.

"A mutual understanding has emerged that the cold war has become a thing of the past... we have started to build a relationship on a new basis," Gorbachev said.

"As a result, a process of actually reducing nuclear and conventional arms has become possible and is now under way," he said.

Summit

Baghdad meeting. They gave no reasons but said they would be represented by officials.

The summit agenda covers the emigrations of Soviet Jews, the Arab world's right to acquire technology, the Middle East peace process, Iraq's peace overtures to Iran and an Egyptian proposal to rid the Middle East of both nuclear and chemical weapons.

The heads of state are expected to send messages to US and Soviet Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev ahead of the superpower summit which opens in Washington on May 30.

An Iraqi-led group of radicals won its way at the ministerial meeting, which drafted resolutions strongly critical of US support for Israel against Arab states.

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah who arrived here earlier today received at his residence in Baghdad Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, President of Mauritania Maouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Tayeb and Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The Amir earlier inaugurated the new premises of the Kuwaiti embassy in Baghdad.

Sheikh Jaber also visited the residence of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Baghdad Ibrahim Jassem Al Bahou.

Message

The Soviet Union has told Arab leaders that it is trying to discourage Jewish emigrants to Israel from going to the occupied territories.

A message to the Arab summit said Moscow might also give migrants the right to return to the Soviet Union, a move requested by Arabs.

But in spite of a conciliatory tone toward Arab concerns, the message indicated no reversal on the right of Jews to emigrate. It was sent to the Arab League on Tuesday.

The Soviet Union sees that the right of emigration should not be at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people," it said.

"The Soviet Union has started an awareness activity among (Soviet Jewish) emigrants to warn them against travelling to occupied Arab territories," it said.

The Supreme Soviet was studying a draft law that would



Khaddafi (left) speaks with Assad before a banquet May 26 in Syria. (Reuters wirephoto)

No solution in sight at summit

Lebanon feels ignored

BEIRUT, May 27, (Reuters): Lebanon is feeling cold-shouldered as Arab leaders gather in Baghdad to focus on other issues, with no solution in sight to the country's 15-year-old civil war.

Arah states seem to have lost interest in a peace initiative launched a year ago at an Arab League summit in Casablanca, officials complain.

Lebanon's agony, with inter-Christian street fighting this year following Christian-Muslim shelling battles in 1989, will be touched on again at the emergency summit starting tomorrow.

But the top issues on the summit agenda will be an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and an Iraqi row with Western countries over Baghdad's military programme.

"Lebanon has paid enough already because of the Arabs incomplete peace initiatives... they left the country suspended in mid-air," a political source said.

"As always, the Arabs will refer to Lebanon in their (end of conference) statement, but only to save face," he said. "It will not make any difference."

Lebanon's government, formed as a result of the

peace drive begun in Casablanca, is not even attending the summit.

It has followed the lead of its ally Syria, which is staying away on the ground the conference is a propaganda play by its arch-rival Iraq.

Without Damascus, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, everyone agrees the summit can do little to end the civil war.

Diplomats said Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid decided to boycott the summit largely because he felt that a failure to strongly back the peace plan would effectively torpedo the peace drive, in which Algeria invested a lot of time and prestige.

Parliamentary sources said Lebanese leaders asked Arah states a few months ago to hold an emergency summit to discuss Lebanon. But none was held because some states went back on earlier pledges to support the idea.

"An Arah summit should be held (even) if the Lebanese problem was the only or the main issue on its agenda," said George Saadeh, who heads Lebanon's largest Christian party.

allow emigrants to keep their Soviet nationality so that they could return home if they wanted to, it added.

Egypt will submit a working paper to the summit that embraces Israel's right to secure borders and the Palestinians' right to opt for statehood, Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper said today.

The authoritative daily said the paper calls for Israeli withdrawal

from all Arab territory occupied during the 1967 Middle East war and recognition of one another by Israel and the PLO.

The Egyptian draft called for respect for the sovereignty of all states in the region and for their right to live within secure borders, the semi-official newspaper said.

The working paper said the Palestinian people had a legitimate right to self-determin-

ation and "the right to set up an independent state in the occupied territories, including Arab (east) Jerusalem," Al-Ahram added.

Al-Ahram said the PLO would also submit a working paper to the summit expressing support for the uprising in the Israeli-ruled territories and outlining a strategy to deal with the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

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Pakistan

(Continued from Page 1)

leaders who spoke over loudspeakers at neighbourhood mosques, police and witnesses said.

The Muslim clerics urged residents to leave their homes to get food and to demand restoration of water and electricity, they said.

Security forces with orders to shoot curfew violators warned residents to go back inside. But the warnings were ignored and troops opened fire, police and witnesses said.

Ambulances raced to the area to pick up victims and take them to a nearby hospital, but doctors said they did not have adequate facilities to treat all the wounded.

As word of the shooting spread, witnesses said, others began taking pot shots at the security forces.

"People were trying to break through police barricades and shooting from their rooftops," said one witness. "The situation got totally out of control."

After five hours, witnesses said, the army moved into the city and the shootings stopped.

Earlier in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, snipers opened fire at several locations simultaneously, killing at least 10 people and wounding 25, police said.

For half an hour, police said, gunmen fired at pedestrians and passing vehicles in various neighbourhoods of the city of eight million. Authorities refused to say who might be responsible for the 6 am (0200 GMT) attack but said at least one policeman was involved.

"This could only be a well-organised plan," said a senior police officer.

At least 12 more people were killed and 50 wounded in sniper fire that ricocheted through a

dozen neighbourhoods, police said. Most shops and businesses closed when the shooting started, they said.

Benazir has acknowledged that the provincial government has not done enough to curb the escalating violence.

But she accused neighbouring India of stirring up trouble in Sind, as well as in the eastern province of Punjab. New Delhi denies the allegations and routinely blames Pakistan for violent separatist movements in Indian Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir. Pakistan denies the charges.

On Friday Benazir ordered the Sind government to take tough action to quell the troubles.

But some of the worst incidents came as security forces scoured houses in search of assault rifles, pistols and even rocket launchers used by the rival factions.

It was not immediately clear how the violence erupted in Karachi and Hyderabad but ethnic tension has been rising between the two groups in the area.

There was a prolonged exchange of gunfire between police and demonstrators after police lobbed tear-gas shells at the crowds in Hyderabad.

Tens of thousands of protesters, including women and children, had marched in processions from different parts of the city, defying a curfew, according to eyewitnesses.

The protesters were marching toward the fort in the old city, which has been under police control since Saturday.

Much of Sind province has been rocked in recent years by epidemic kidnappings, assassinations and sniper shootings that have left more than 2,000 people dead.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

mision to India and Pakistan by Bob Gates, US deputy national security adviser, "has been another factor in convincing the United States that war is likely" and that if it comes, Pakistan would be defeated.

The report noted that India and Pakistan fought wars over Kashmir in 1947, 1965, and 1971, all before either side had nuclear weapons.

In Srinagar, more than 30,000 Muslims, taking advantage of a break in a curfew imposed to control a secessionist campaign, gathered today to mourn about 50 people killed by Indian troops last week.

The mourning took place in Jammu and Kashmir state's summer capital of Srinagar, while in the winter capital, Jammu, Hindus shut down shops and kept vehicles off the streets to protest against the resignation of the state governor.

The Muslim mourners placed wreaths and prayed at the spot where security forces on Tuesday opened fire on mourners carrying the body of Moulvi Mohammed Farooq, the Kashmir valley's assassinated chief Muslim cleric.

Wall posters have appeared in Srinagar carrying threats from Kashmiri militants to avenge last Monday's assassination of Farooq by unidentified gunmen.

(See Also Pages 7 & 12)

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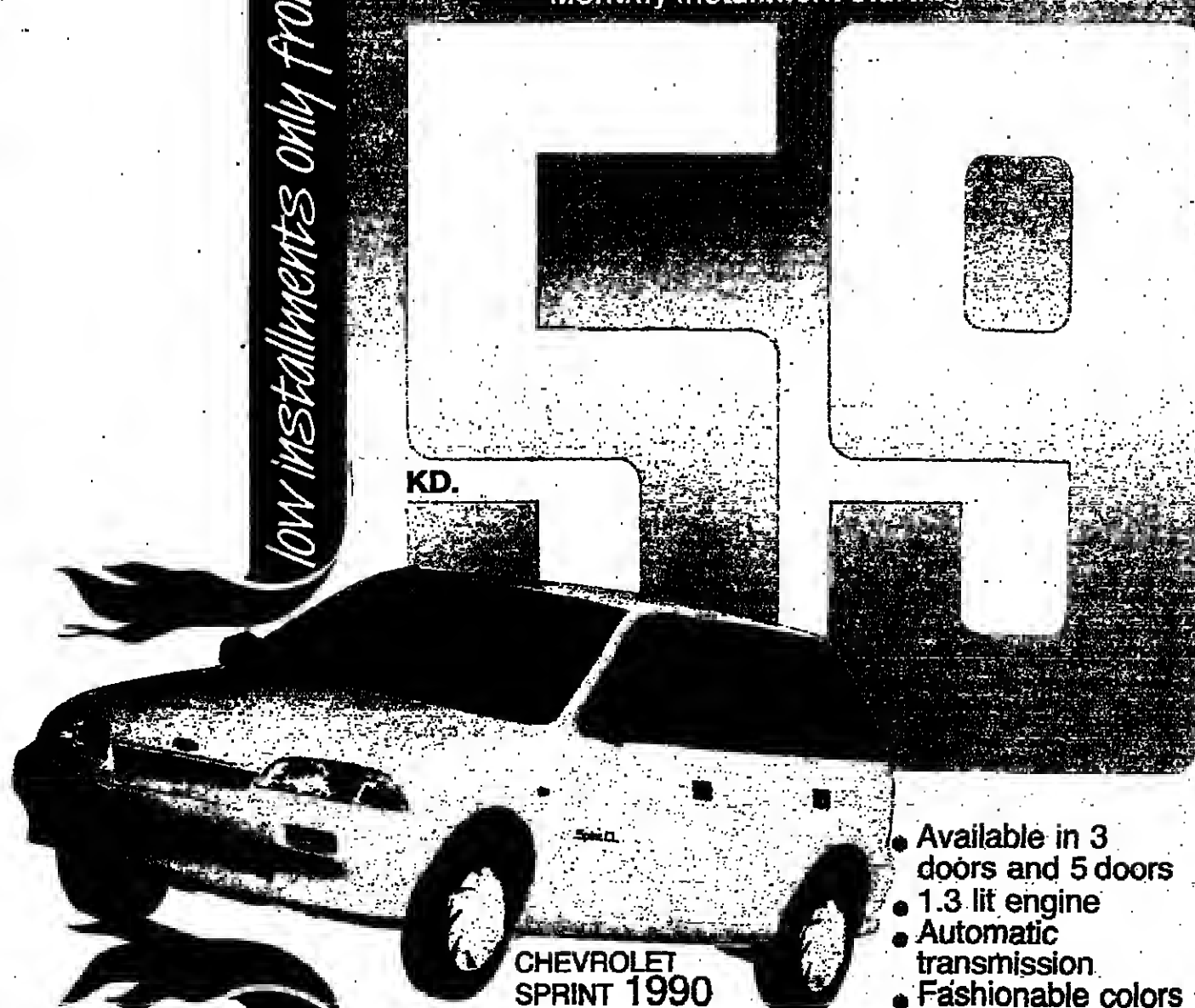
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No proof of Contra claims: probers

MANAGUA, May 27, (AP): Members of an investigative team named by the president announced yesterday that they could find no proof of rebel claims that the army massacred 14 of their fighters who had laid down their weapons.

"We haven't been able to confirm the existence of any dead alleged by the Nicaraguan resistance," Santiago Murray, representative of the United Nations international support and verification commission, said in a news conference.

Rebel leaders walked out of disarmament talks with the government on Friday demanding an investigation of what they claimed was an army massacre of 14 former rebel fighters and 100 civilians. The US-backed rebels, known as Cootras, said the massacre took place near Waslala in Matagalpa province, 150 miles (241 kilometres) northeast of Managua.

The investigative commission, named by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro on Friday, travelled by helicopter to the area yesterday and interviewed army and rebel leaders, Murray said.

He said the commission members have found no information about "any dead or other serious incident."

In interviews yesterday with residents, rebels and officials in the Waslala area, the Associated Press encountered no testimony supporting the Contra claim.

The people interviewed near Waslala in the community of Zinica where rebels alleged the incident occurred on May 18, seemed surprised by the news of a massacre and said they had heard about it from a Managua radio station.

The investigating commission consisted of government officials, UN officials, Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo and a Contra representative.

Contra commander Oscar Sovalbarro was named to the commission but he remained in Managua yesterday in a hotel where he said he and 13 other Contras were being held "hostage" by police.

Elite police units surrounded two Managua hotels — the Intercontinental and the Mercedes — where the rebels were staying after breaking off disarmament talks.

The police did not appear to be threatening the rebels, but Contra leader said they were told they would not leave the hotel grounds.

Presidential spokesman Danilo Lacayo refused to comment on why police were prohibiting the rebels from leaving.

The leftist Sandinistas, who turned over power to Chamorro last month after losing February elections, still control the military and police.

The investigative team interviewed Col Manuel Salvatierra, head of the army in the region where Cootras claimed the massacre occurred, and a rebel chief identified as "Chinaman four," Murray said, adding that neither knew anything about a massacre.

■ **Salvadori:** Leftist rebels in El Salvador have flagrantly violated international law by executing hundreds of civilians over the years without proper judicial procedures, a human rights group said yesterday.

Americas Watch, a privately funded group based in New York, said in a report the FMLN rebels should immediately halt trials of suspected war criminals until the insurgents can prove the proceedings comply with international standards. (AP)



130 arrested

A plainclothes police officer arrests a screaming squatter outside a derelict building in the northern Dutch city of Groningen May 27. Over 130 squatters were arrested after barricading themselves in a building and holding off riot police for over 24 hours. (Reuters wirephoto)

Civil defence copter crashes

PARIS, May 27, (AP): A French civil defence helicopter crashed in the sea near Mont-Saint-Michel late yesterday, killing at least one of the three men on board. Authorities said the two others were missing.

Police said the helicopter was on a routine marine surveillance mission when the accident occurred at about 8 pm (1800 GMT).

Rocard bids tighter control on immigration

PARIS, May 27, (AP): Premier Michel Rocard, seeking to placate opposing sides in a bitter debate over immigration, has proposed boosting aid for foreigners already in France while working harder to keep out new immigrants.

In a document released Friday night, Rocard said French consulates abroad should tighten controls over tourist visas making sure they are not used for illegal immigration.

He pledged to strengthen the campaign against employment of illegal

immigrants in France. Boats, vehicles and aircraft used in clandestine border crossings should be confiscated, and an additional 250 officers should be assigned to escort illegal immigrants out of the country, he said.

Any foreign country which encouraged its citizens to seek unauthorised jobs in France would be viewed as unfriendly, but France would help with economic development projects in countries where immigrants originate, Rocard said.

On the other hand, Rocard proposed

allocating an additional 200 million francs (\$36 million) to local governments for programme intended to ease immigrants' assimilation into French society. These funds would be used for housing, education, and French language programmes.

The government would seek to speed up the naturalisation process for immigrants seeking and qualifying for French citizenship, he said.

Rocard said France would not alter its policy of offering political exile to dissidents suffering persecution in their

homelands. But this policy would be "limited to its genuine purpose," he said.

Rocard unveiled his proposals in advance of a meeting Tuesday to which he has invited all of the country's main political parties, except the far-right National Front, to seek a possible consensus position on immigration.

Human rights groups have urged the socialist government to intensify efforts to assist immigrants. The centre-right opposition parties, however,

demand tighter controls over immigration, while the National Front says immigrants should be deported.

National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has been widely accused of fostering a climate of racial intolerance. Government officials have held him indirectly responsible for the recent desecration of Jewish graves, and the National Front has been barred from holding meetings in several towns.

Le Pen vowed to defy the latest ban.

imposed Friday by an administrator of the Savoy region near Geneva who prohibited a National Front meeting planned for today in the town of Saint-Francois.

"We're familiar with some of these fascist prefects, under the boot of the government, and the time will come when they will be judged by the people," Le Pen told a news conference yesterday.

"Naturally, I'll go to Saint-Francois, and I will wait for the prefect to arrest me," he said.



Colombian military policemen and members of a special security force stand guard near the entrance to the home of Gaviria, May 26 in Bogota. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Vote despite violence'

Colombia takes all possible precautions

BOGOTA, May 27, (Reuters): The government assured Colombians it had taken all possible precautions to protect voters electing a new president today in the middle of a bombing campaign blamed on drug barons.

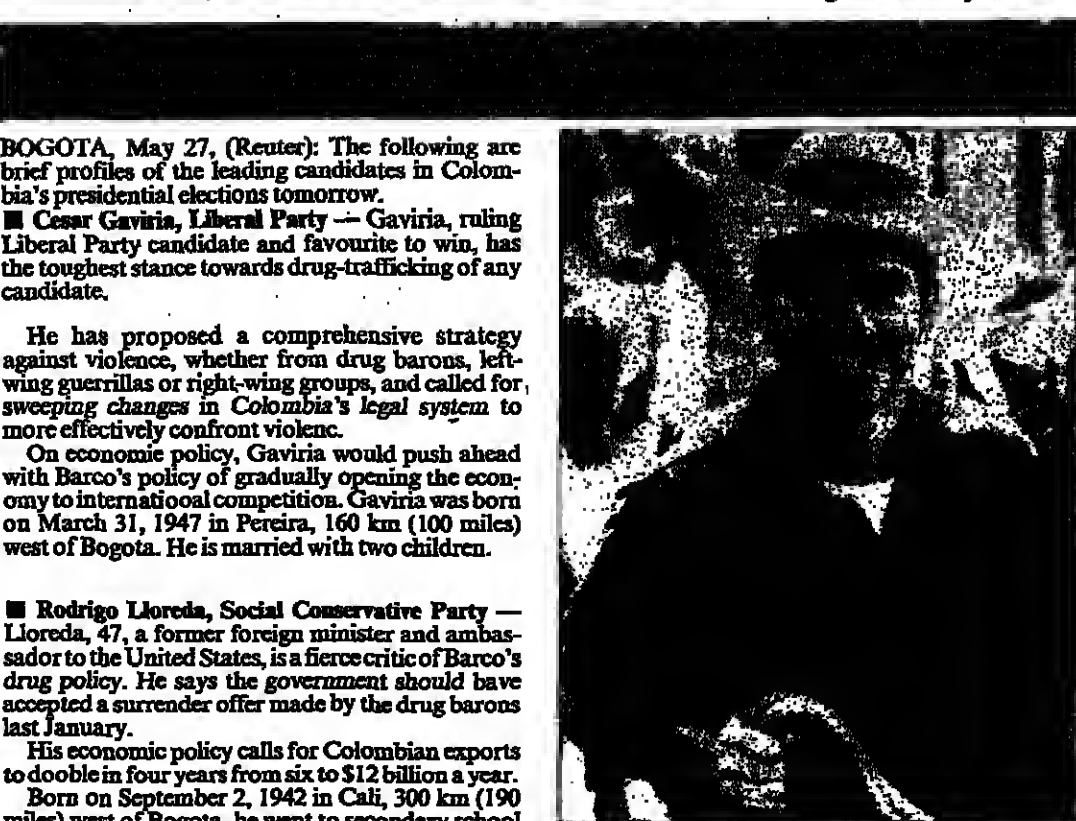
On the eve of the election which will test popular support for continuing his government's crackdown on the drug traffickers, outgoing President Virgilio Barco urged Colombians to vote despite the violence which he said was intended to "intimidate the popular will."

"To vote is to support democracy, to reject violence, to defend the rights that the terrorists want to snatch away from us," Barco said in a

televised speech. "We have taken all necessary precautions to guarantee people can vote freely and to avoid actions by the violent ones against the elections."

The election campaign has been the bloodiest in Colombian history. Authorities accuse cocaine-traffickers, who declared war on the state last August after the government crackdown began, of killing hundreds of people — including three presidential hopefuls — in bomb attacks and shootings.

Ruling Liberal Party candidate Cesar Gaviria, favourite to win, also



Gaviria rides a horse during a campaign meeting in Bogota May 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

BOGOTA, May 27, (Reuters): The following are brief profiles of the leading candidates in Colombia's presidential elections tomorrow.

■ **Cesar Gaviria, Liberal Party** — Gaviria, ruling Liberal Party candidate and favourite to win, has the toughest stance towards drug-trafficking of any candidate.

He has proposed a comprehensive strategy against violence, whether from drug barons, left-wing guerrillas or right-wing groups, and called for sweeping changes in Colombia's legal system to more effectively confront violence.

On economic policy, Gaviria would push ahead with Barco's policy of gradually opening the economy to international competition. Gaviria was born on March 31, 1947 in Pereira, 160 km (100 miles) west of Bogota. He is married with two children.

■ **Rodrigo Lloreda, Social Conservative Party** — Lloreda, 47, a former foreign minister and ambassador to the United States, is a fierce critic of Barco's drug policy. He says the government should have accepted a surrender offer made by the drug barons last January.

His economic policy calls for Colombian exports to double in four years from six to \$12 billion a year. Born on September 2, 1942 in Cali, 300 km (190 miles) west of Bogota, he went to secondary school in the United States and studied law in Colombia. He is married with five children.

■ **19 co-conspirators**

Barry drug probe

WASHINGTON, May 27, (UPI): A list of 19 alleged co-conspirators in the drug investigation against Mayor Marion Barry includes eight people who told authorities they provided cocaine to Barry, a published report said today.

Friends and girlfriends of Barry, as well as D.C. business figures are among the 19 alleged co-conspirators whose names prosecutors turned over to Barry's attorneys last week, the Washington Post reported.

None of the 19 have been charged with any crime and most are expected to testify against Barry at his trial scheduled to begin on

June 4. Barry is charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine, a misdemeanor, 10 counts of misdemeanor cocaine possession and three counts of lying about drugs.

Prosecutors have granted immunity against prosecution to eight of the 19 who said they provided cocaine to Barry, the newspaper reported.

Among the 19 are advertising executive Jeffrey Mitchell, lawyer Lloyd N. Moore Jr, Atlanta public relations executive Hank Wilson and former DC government employees Darrell Sabbs and Daniel Butler.

Burglars rob cash machines

NEW YORK, May 27, (UPI): Burglars broke into the automatic teller machines at a chemical bank branch on Manhattan's west side, stealing more than \$250,000 early yesterday, police said.

The heist at the chemical branch was discovered at 9:30 am by bank security workers, who found the bank door open, said Sgt. Ed Burns, a police spokesman.

"The security people think it happened between 3 am and 9:30 am," Burns said. "They got away with more than a quarter million dollars."

How the thieves got access to the back of the ATM machines was a mystery. "There was no sign of forced entry," Burns said.

urged people to vote. "We must vote, to reply to the bombs with votes, with millions of votes for democracy, for a better future for ourselves and for our children," he said in a statement.

Gaviria, a 43-year-old former interior minister, takes a hard line towards the drug barons, ruling out a pardon or negotiations. All his main rivals are fiercely critical of the government crackdown, saying Colombia is paying an unfair price while consumer nations such as the United States do little.

The government is doing its utmost to persuade people to vote in the elections which will also include a referendum on whether to form an assembly to reform the constitution.

Abstention in Colombian polls is traditionally as high as 60 per cent and officials fear the bombing campaign could frighten more voters away, undermining the new president's authority.

Polling booths open at 8 am (1300 GMT) and close at 5 pm (2200 GMT). First official results are expected around 8 pm on Monday (0100 GMT Tuesday).

The drug-traffickers have stepped up attacks in the last two months, killing 70 people in a wave of car bomb blasts and shooting scores more. Western diplomats say the campaign is intended to undermine the state and intimidate people into voting against candidates with a hard line on drugs.

The authorities have taken tough security measures as part of a "democracy plan" to ensure the elections go smoothly. Newspapers say some 200,000 police and soldiers will be on duty nationwide to guard against sabotage by drug-traffickers or left-wing guerrillas.

Police have set up roadblocks at entrances to the capital Bogota to search vehicles for explosives and weapons and hundreds of policemen patrol the streets.

Police said on Saturday they dealt a major blow to drug-traffickers' plans to disrupt the elections by arresting six men suspected of planting five bombs in Bogota.

"We still remain apart on some key issues," Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon told reporters outside the prime minister's residence. "I'm still no closer to accepting the accord."

Filmon, one of three premiers opposed to the pact, remained adamant that Quebec abandon its demand for a veto over reforming the composition of the sen-

Le Pen relishes No. 1 demon label

Out to expel immigrants

ST. CLOUD, France, May 27, (AP): Jean-Marie Le Pen, accused of inspiring one of the most vile anti-Semitic crimes in postwar France, has been called the nation's No. 1 demon. He seems to relish the title.

"If I told you it gives me pleasure, would you be surprised?" he asks with a grin. The brash, right-wing politician is trying to keep France French. He and his National Front, fearing "colonisation" by foreigners, want to expel immigrants and enact new laws to keep them out.

He has been accused of racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, but replies that he is simply a patriot, unafraid to say aloud what others think in private.

After the discovery May 10 of the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Carpentras and mutilation of a corpse, Interior Minister Pierre Joxe accused Le Pen of fostering an atmosphere of hate. Le Pen was present only in effigy at a huge protest march in Paris which drew all main political parties.

"I am Carpentras" read a sign on the effigy. Le Pen, during a two-hour interview in the study of his suburban Paris home, said the desecration was a plot to discredit him.

"There is one thing I'm sure of. It is that I'm not guilty and the National Front is not guilty," Le Pen said. "I don't know who did it, but I know who didn't do it."

Like a television preacher, Le Pen, a deputy in the European parliament, knows how to pump a crowd, strutting, cajoling and raging, his street-smart edge tempered with quotes from Pascal or citations in Latin. Silver-haired and physically imposing, Le Pen — even his detractors acknowledge — has charisma.

Referred to in the French press as the "beast" or the "devil," he thrives on controversy.

"Democracy is a debate, a combat of ideas," he said. "It's not a parade of arm-chair philosophers with good intentions."

On a bookshelf sits a portrait of Le Pen wearing the black bandana he once donned to cover the eye he lost in a street fight defending a parliamentary deputy.

A former paratrooper and Foreign Legionnaire who fought in Indochina and Algeria, Le Pen, 61, now fights many of his battles in court.

Le Pen has been the target and initiator of numerous defamation lawsuits, winning some and losing some, but denies being racist or anti-Semitic.

"Me? Racist? It's a gag, a gag," he booms. "But I'm not for the melting pot. I'm for the defence of one's culture."

"I'd despair if I found the culture of Brooklyn in France," he said, referring to a section of New York City.

As for Jews, "if they are



Le Pen shown during an interview with Reuters in the garden of his spacious mansion in Saint-Cloud near Paris. (Reuters wirephoto)

French, there's no problem, I'm not anti-Semitic."

In 1987, Le Pen caused a scandal by calling the Nazi gas chambers a "detail of World War II history." A year later, in a play on words, he linked the name of cabinet minister Jacques Chirac, by changing the law governing voter representation, managed to reduce the National Front's parliamentary seats from 33 to one.

The Justice Ministry recently succeeded in getting Le Pen's parliamentary immunity lifted to prosecute him for the pun.

"Who is charged to say what one can and cannot say in a free country?" Le Pen demanded.

Le Pen, who founded the National Front in 1972, was an obscurity until the party made a political breakthrough in 1984, gaining 11 per cent of the vote in European Parliament elections. He started France in 1988 by winning 14 per cent in the first round of presidential voting.

Politicians of all sorts have scrambled to out-manoeuvre or accommodate him — or woo his followers with get-tough immigration programmes of their own. The government of former premier Jacques Chirac, by changing the law governing voter representation, managed to reduce the National Front's parliamentary seats from 33 to one.

Since Carpentras, which set off a wave of anti-Semitic acts, Le Pen is being denounced perhaps more so than ever.

Le Pen is a "man dangerous for national unity, for civil peace," declared Chirac.

He "boos the name of Gen De Gaulle and applauds that of the Nazi Schoenhuber," Chirac said, referring to Franz Schoenhuber, a former Waffen SS member, now a colleague in Le Pen's far-right group in the European Parliament.

No solution to Quebec tangle

Constitutional crisis

OTTAWA, May 27, (Reuters): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, only four weeks from a crucial deadline, failed yesterday to win over a key opponent in a deepening constitutional crisis over Quebec's future in Canada.

Mulroney is meeting individually with Canada's 10 provincial premiers to find a way out of the impasse over the Meech Lake constitutional accord before a June 23 deadline.

Sixty per cent of Quebecers in a recent poll suggested they are so angered at opposition to the accord, which would give the French-speaking province special powers, that they would be prepared to separate from Canada.

"We still remain apart on some key issues," Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon told reporters outside the prime minister's residence. "I'm still no closer to accepting the accord."

Filmon, one of three premiers opposed to the pact, remained adamant that Quebec abandon its demand for a veto over reforming the composition of the sen-

ate in exchange for Manitoba's endorsement of the accord.

"If we do not see the changes that we believe are absolutely essential then we will not proceed with Meech Lake in the Manitoba legislature."

Manitoba's premier, however, said he believed Mulroney should still call a conference of all premiers as a last-ditch bid to resolve the dispute. Mulroney has favoured such a conference only if he believed there was a chance of success.

Quebec has refused to sign the 1982 constitution which broke Canada's last colonial ties with Britain.

The Meech Lake accord, signed in 1987 with the aim of making Quebec a willing partner in the confederation, expires on June 23 if not passed by all the provinces.

Adoption of the accord would entrench Quebec's right to protect and promote its culture as a "distinct society" but critics fear that would give Quebec too much power.

Refugees attacked in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, May 27, (Reuters): Swedish extremists opposed to immigration staged fresh arson attacks at the weekend, when they petrol-bombed a refugee centre, smoke-bombed sleeping facilities and burned several caravans.

Nobody was hurt in the latest incident last night as a petrol bomb was hurled at a refugee centre at Vasteras, west of Stockholm, the fifth attack since Thursday on property housing refugees from Lebanon, Somalia, Ethiopia and Iran.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has condemned the wave of violence as criminal and racist.

In the most serious attack to date, 11 spluttering refugees were taken to hospital after a smoke bomb was thrown as they slept in a building near Motala, south-west Sweden, yesterday morning. Doctors later discharged all but one of them.

A Turkish Islamic cultural centre outside Stockholm burned to the ground early today, in what police said could turn out to be another deliberate fire.

Extremists daubed racist slogans such as "Keep Sweden Swedish" in two other towns where accommodation being prepared for refugees was set ablaze.

"This is the work of criminals. We must vigorously oppose this tendency to racism and hatred of immigrants," Carlsson said in a statement yesterday. Sweden's immigration board has ordered a night watch at all its refugee reception centres.

US civil rights activist Angela Davis predicts 1990s will be decade of activism

CORANAPOLIS, Pennsylvania, May 27, (UPI): Civil rights activist Angela Davis predicts the 1990s will be a decade of activism as international politics become more complex than ever, a pivotal decade in determining the history of future generations.

Davis, 46, speaking to the 4th National Convention of Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE) in suburban Pittsburgh, also said yesterday she is optimistic about a growing sentiment of

anti-racism that has arisen to combat an outbreak of bigotry.

David personal message — unite and fight for human rights — remains the same since she first achieved notoriety in the 1960s. A two-time Communist Party candidate for vice-president, Davis gained world-wide attention in a 22-month murder trial that ended with her acquittal in June 1972.

Her victory in that case is the one aspect of her life

for which she would most like to be remembered.

"That sent a message that it is possible for us, if we organise and unite, to be victorious," she told UPI.

"That is an enduring message."

Davis said she still considers herself a militant, adding, "I wouldn't change anything I don't regret anything."

In the late 1960s, Davis was involved with George Jackson, one of three black prison inmates known as

the "Solead Brothers" who were accused of murdering a white prison guard. While they awaited trial, she obtained a permit to own a gun.

She then purchased several guns and gave them to Jonathan Jackson, younger brother of George, who used them in August 1970 to free a black defendant on trial in California. The younger Jackson seized the judge, district attorney and three others as hostages.

She then purchased several guns and gave them to Jonathan Jackson, younger brother of George, who used them in August 1970 to free a black defendant on trial in California. The younger Jackson seized the judge, district attorney and three others as hostages.

Labour lead over Conservatives slips

LONDON, May 27, (UPI): The Labour Party's lead has slipped 10 points against the Conservative Party, according to a poll published yesterday which suggested the Tories' recent "summer offensive" may be working.

A national opinion poll survey for the independent newspaper and British Broadcasting Corp. showed that Labour is now 15 points ahead of the ruling Conservatives, compared with a 25-point lead the main opposition party held in April.

Forty-nine per cent of those surveyed said they intended to vote for Labour in the next election,

down 5 per cent from April, while 34 per cent said they would cast ballots for the Conservatives, a 5 per cent rise over the previous month's poll results.

The Liberal Democrats Party gained one per cent to reach 8 per cent, while the remaining voters were split between the Green Party, the Social Democrats Party and others.

In recent weeks, the Tories have stepped up their verbal attacks on Labour, attempting to paint their opponents' policies as vague and ineffectual. The Tories, so-called "summer offensive" includes pos-

ters showing Labour's trademark red rose wilting. Conservative Party chairman Kenneth Baker warned Tuesday that a Labour government would "jeopardise all the successes of this government."

Poll results show 63 per cent said Labour "has vague policies" while 28 per cent believe it has "clear policies," the Independent newspaper said.

For the third month in a row, Labour leader Neil Kinnock edged out Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher when voters were asked to judge the suitability of each person to serve as prime minister. Kinnock

averaged 5 out of 10 points on a scale of one to 10, while Thatcher gained only 4.5 points.

The poll tax, a highly unpopular tax replacing property taxes which went into effect April 1, remains the top issue on voters' minds, the survey said. The tax requires local city councils to set a flat sum that must be paid by every Briton who is at least 18 years old, with some exceptions, and has sparked a series of often violent demonstrations and protests. Meanwhile, Thatcher and the Tory Party saw their popularity plunge to new lows amid the uproar over the hated poll tax.

Shuttle getting ready to soar

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, May 27, (AP): The countdown for the launch of the space shuttle Columbia began on schedule today for the first mission in five years devoted entirely to scientific research.

The countdown began at 1 am (0500 GMT) and launch is set for 12:38 am (0438 GMT) Wednesday, a NASA spokesman said. Columbia will be on a mission to study the stars, a comet and other celestial matter.

The launch is two weeks later than planned because the National Aeronautics and Space Administration had to replace a bad cooling valve in Columbia's payload bay.

"It looks very good. There have been ups and downs a lot, so everybody's very excited about the prospects of getting this mission off," mission manager Jack Jones said Friday.

Columbia's payload, a \$150 million observatory called Astro will provide a much more thorough study of ultraviolet light than the Hubble space telescope, placed in orbit a month ago during the last shuttle flight. Astro also will probe X-rays invisible to Hubble.

"We selected Astro to fill the holes, so to speak," explained Ed Weiler, a programme scientist for NASA.

It will be the first mission since 1985 to use Spacelab, a scientific research facility carried in the shuttle's payload bay. It also will be the first of five Spacelab missions dedicated to a single subject — Astrophysics.

The four astronauts on board will operate Astro from the rear flight deck using Spacelab computers; a pressurised laboratory module in which astronauts conduct experiments will not be used. Other Spacelab components will support the 27,450-pound (12,451 kg) observatory in the open payload bay.

It will be the first of 36 shuttle missions to offer "Lessons from space." More than 40 middle-school students at two NASA centres will question the astronauts through a two-way audio and video link.

And it will be the first time direct radio communication is made between a US and Soviet spacecraft. Columbia's astronauts plan to talk by ham radio to two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet space station Mir.

During the 9 to 10-day mission Astro's four telescopes will make nearly 1,000 observations of up to 230 sources of ultraviolet and X-ray radiation, short, high-energy wavelengths absorbed by the atmosphere.

At least four observations are planned of Comet Austin, making what's believed to be its first journey through the solar system.

Pope warns of consumerism

Demise of communism shows need for religion

VALLETTA, May 27, (Reuters): Pope John Paul said today that Western-style consumerism loomed as a new threat in Eastern Europe after the failure of communism.

"The series of events in Europe during the last few months shows clearly the inadequacy and failure of a culture which was not built on the primacy of the spiritual dimension of the human person," he said.

The Pope was speaking to intellectuals in the village of St Julians, just outside the Maltese capital of Valletta on the last day of his weekend trip to the Mediterranean island.

Since the tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe in 1989, the Pope, whose homeland was the first to dump old-style communism, has not passed up an opportunity to proclaim Marxism's moral bankruptcy.

"Rediscovered freedom is leading peoples long condemned to silence, fear and want to proclaim aloud the value of the human person, the spiritual character of life, the need to express individual worth and personal responsibility..." he said.

But as he did in Czechoslovakia in April and in Mexico earlier this month the Pope said the moral value of the region's newly discovered freedom could be undermined by materialism.

The Pope yesterday warned the youth of Malta not to be lured by drugs, sex or materialism at a large rally during the final day of his three-day visit.

The Pope arrived at Valletta's national stadium at 10 am to receive a rousing welcome from about 30,000 people who filled the arena to capacity.

He said the demise of communism had shown the need for Christian faith, but warned that there were signs of a "weakening of moral commitment and a narrow sense of spiritual inspiration."

The pontiff during his stay made many pointed criticisms of the shallowness of socialist thought, and has openly endorsed the Christian Democrat government of Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami.

Cancer

Neutron therapy killed 33 in UK

LONDON, May 27, (Kuna): British medical experts said more than 30 cancer patients in Britain have died from low energy neutron treatment; it was reported today.

They believe the therapy, a high energy version of which won the personal backing of the British government and a £6 million grant in 1989, led to the deaths of 33 patients in late 1970s and mid 1980s, the British media said.

Radiologist Dr Sidney Arnott said 16 patients given neutron therapy for bladder cancer at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland, in the early 1980s died as a direct result of it.

But the 70-year-old Polish-born pontiff warned against "an unbridled consumer mentality" and said:

"The challenge facing Europe is to rediscover its own deepest roots. The restoration of external freedom is only the first stage, the first step. The exercise of freedom must be accompanied by a growth in moral and spiritual maturity."



World War II veterans return to the Dunkirk beaches to discuss old memories of the evacuation. Left to right: Keith Smith 67, George Rames, 86, John Shipman, 77, George Dumbleby 73, shown on the beaches of Dunkirk, France, May 26 (Reuters wirephoto)

Security brace up for demos

WASHINGTON, May 27, (Reuters): Mikhail Gorbachev may be the most popular Soviet leader ever with Americans, but US security forces, helped by KGB agents, are bracing for thousands of demonstrators during his summit visit this week.

For his four days in Washington police have issued 14 permits for demonstrations near the White House alone. Other protests are planned in the capital as well as on his trips to Minneapolis, San Francisco and even cities he will not visit.

The biggest protests are expected from thousands of Lithuanians, Estonians and Latvians exiles pressing Gorbachev to permit independence for the Soviet Baltic states.

Security arrangements for Gorbachev are the most difficult the secret service have ever had to deal with for a Soviet leader.

For the first time in 30 years the head of the communist world is heading into America's heartland. Nikita Khrushchev was the last Soviet leader to visit America's Midwest when he toured Iowa state in 1959.

See also Page 8



Squatters riot

Squatters look on behind a burning barricade in the centre of Groningen, northern Netherlands, on May 26. A group of squatters who are facing an eviction from their squatted building started rioting in the morning. The group erected barricade and set cars on fire (Reuters wirephoto)

Queen to visit Eton College

550th anniversary

ETON, England, May 27, (AP): Old Etonians will be thronging "ye distant spires, ye antique towers, that crown the wailry glade," as Thomas Gray put it, and Queen Elizabeth II will be coming for lunch on Tuesday for the 550th anniversary of Eton College.

It really isn't the anniversary, which is a small example of the famous school's serene indifference to the ways of the world.

King Henry VI founded the school on Oct 11, 1440, an Eton official explained, but Tuesday, May 29, conveniently falls the day before the annual holiday honouring King George III, a great Eton supporter. His death was the occasion for students donning the long-tailed black coats that remain compulsory.

Eton's calendar, like its vocabulary, is all its own. Eton long ago disposed of top hats, flogging, and humiliating "bum freezer" jackets for its shortest boys, but it remains its own world: masters are "beaks," classes are "divs," Rowses are "wet bobs," cricketers are "dry bobs" and students are either "tugs" (king's scholars) or "oppidians" (fee-paying students).

The myth of Eton is that the school inculcates superiority of mind, grace and social status.

"The thing Eton majors in is arrogance — so deep-rooted it is totally unconscious. It's ugly and unappealing, and I've spent the past 30 years trying to unlearn it," says Mark Fisher, a Labour Party lawmaker.

Lord Longford says he was once interrogated by King George VI about why he, an old Etonian, became a socialist. It came down to "the conviction that we are all equal in the sight of God," Longford said.

"Well, I think Eton stands for something far removed from that," Fisher and Longford were among 50 "old boys" interviewed by Danny Danziger for his recently published book, "Eton Voices."

"Etonians have great expectations — and Etonians are rarely disappointed," Danziger concluded.

Their ranks include George Orwell, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Henry Fielding, Aldous Huxley, the economist John Maynard Keynes, the pirate Capt. Jack, a score of prime ministers and three members of the current cabinet.

Derek Malcolm, film critic of the Guardian newspaper, left Eton feeling equal to any occasion. "I mean, there's no higher you can go socially," he told Danziger.

Fisher and Toss, says Philip Howard, literary editor of the Times of London. "You should see some of the confident, insecure... boring Etonians I met, if I don't see them coming first," he wrote in the newspaper.

"I do get irritated by people who think that because we look traditional and old-fashioned, the establishment is hidebound and backward looking," the headmaster, Eric Anderson, told the Daily Express.

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Europe

Romanian torches himself: A 31-year-old Romanian set himself on fire Sunday in front of the American embassy in Budapest, and doctors were battling for his life, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported.

Hospital sources said the man, Miroslav Dimitru, was in critical condition with second- and third-degree burns covering about 35 per cent of his body.

According to MTI, the reasons for the suicide attempt were unknown. It said Dimitru could not be questioned.

The hospital sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that after an injection of a painkiller, Dimitru said he had arrived from Romania on Saturday, planning to defect. (AP)

Horn is new Socialist boss: Hungary's ousted communist, banished into opposition in elections last month after ruling for more than 40 years, elected former Foreign Minister Gyula Horn as their leader at the weekend.

Veteran reformer Rezső Nyeri had resigned as party president on Saturday as he opened a congress of the new-look Socialist Party, formerly a communist party.

Horn, 58, supervised last year's large-scale exodus of East Germans to West Germany via Hungary. The exodus weakened communist power in East Germany and helped bring on the collapse of East Berlin's Stalinist regime, triggering a domino effect in which hardline communists were toppled throughout Eastern Europe. (Reuters)

Plot to halt nuke testings: Grass-roots activists from around the world came together Saturday with songs, shouts and some of radioactive damage in Soviet Kazakhstan, and they discussed ways to halt nuclear testing.

"We're poisoning our air, we're poisoning our soil, we're poisoning our water," former bank-maker Ted Taylor told participants in the four-day conference. The US nuclear physicist said Americans and Soviets are more likely to be killed by the pollution from their own nuclear testing than by an enemy bomb.

Although superpower tensions are easing, the activists decided they have virtually no hope of persuading US, British and French leaders to stop testing nuclear bombs anytime soon. The United States detonated an underground bomb on Friday. (AP)

Neo-Nazis rampage, 21 held: About 300 rightists and neo-Nazis rampaged through downtown East Berlin after a soccer match, damaging cars and smashing windows. Police arrested 21 people, the official news agency ADN said Sunday.

After reaching the central Alexanderplatz where they were met by police, about 200 people from the group fled to the nearby monument to Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the founders of communism. There the group formed a human swastika before being dispersed by police, ADN said.

The disturbances occurred after a soccer match in East Berlin on Saturday, the agency said. (AP)

Athens pollution hits high: Over 500 people were admitted to Athens hospitals over the weekend complaining of heart and respiratory ailments linked to high pollution levels, state and private radio stations reported on Sunday.

Pollution in the Greek capital has been dangerously high for three straight days. On Saturday, nitrogen dioxide levels reached 500 micrograms per cubic metre of air, the point at which emergency measures must be taken.

The Environment Ministry advised residents to avoid going out on the streets but did not announce emergency steps. (Reuters)



Students riot

A South Korean teacher tries to stop riot police from entering Seoul's Kyonghi University where about 3,000 teachers held a rally to demand educational reforms on May 27. Police fired teargas to evict delinquent protesters from the university. (Reuters wirephoto)



Tries to tow

A rescue boat tries to tow the capsized fishing boat which collided with a 476-tonne cargo ship in the sea near Otaru, 1,000 km north of Tokyo, May 27. Three people died and one remains missing. (Reuters wirephoto)



Administers first aid

An injured woman receives first aid from rescue workers near the plant of Dai-ichi Chemical Industries in western Tokyo May 26, after a series of blasts rocked the factory. Seven people were killed and 21 others injured. (Reuters wirephoto)

Birthday
Genghis Khan

ULAN BATOR, May 27, (Reuters): About two thousand Mongolians crowded into Ulan Bator's central square today to celebrate the birthday of national hero Genghis Khan for the first time in living memory.

The crowd watched passively as a huge banner bearing the "great Khan's" portrait fluttered in the breeze and a young man dressed as Genghis sang traditional Mongolian songs.

The memory of Genghis, unifier of warring Mongol tribes in the 13th century and bloodthirsty conqueror of the biggest ever land empire, has been suppressed since the Soviet Union took control of the nation in 1921.

Moscow's grip has relaxed considerably in recent years and Genghis has become a powerful symbol of Mongolian nationalism in this vast but sparsely populated land between China and the Soviet Union.



First NZ cop killed: A policeman was gunned down on Sunday in the first killing of a New Zealand officer on duty in 14 years, a police spokesman said.

Constable Peter Umbers, 35, was shot at the remote south island township of Wedderburn after stopping a driver suspected of involvement in an armed robbery.

Crime is traditionally low in New Zealand by international standards, but police have struggled to control a growing number of armed robberies and vicious rapes. (Reuters)

Thai doctors investigate: Thai doctors have started working in Singapore to keep tabs on the health of labourers from Thailand, 17 of whom have died in their sleep under mysterious circumstances, officials said Sunday.

Operating out of the Thai labour office, the physicians are advising workers about dietary deficiencies, dieting habits and other health questions from frightened Thais who do not speak English and have difficulty communicating with local doctors. (UPI)

Ship toll rises to 94: The death toll in the sinking of an overcrowded passenger ship last weekend off the east coast of Kalimantan has risen to 94, police said Friday.

Rescuers recovered a body in Nunukan on Friday evening, bringing the death toll to 94, said an officer at the Tarakan police station.

The "Cahaya Macolli", carrying at least 235 people, sank Sunday en route from Nunukan to Tarakan, both in east Kalimantan province, some 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) northeast of Jakarta. (AP)

Train robbers to die in China: China has sentenced to death 11 members of a train robbery gang. "The North Eastern Tigers" for repeatedly terrorising trains throughout the country, an official newspaper said on Sunday.

The workers daily described the "Tigers" as "extremely harmful" people who robbed many trains. It gave no details of their activities. (Reuters)

Beijing crackdown on crime: Police manning new late-night anti-crime checkpoints said they have broken up 148 criminal gangs operating in the capital and solved 1,144 crimes, the official press reported Sunday.

About 15,000 police and thousands of other security workers have been stopping nighttime traffic at many Beijing locations in a major crackdown on crime to advance of September's Asian Games, the state-run People's Daily reported.

Chinese authorities are determined that the nation's first staging of a major international sporting event will not be marred by embarrassing disruptions, whether political or criminal. (AP)

Ship crew rescued: The crew of a Chinese iron ore tanker was rescued Saturday after abandoning the ship in the Indian Ocean because of a severe crack in its hull, officials said.

All 38 crewmen of the Tao Yuan Hai were transferred safely to the Japanese gas tanker Kakuko Maru after losing a three-day battle to save their vessel, the Australian Federal Sea Safety Centre reported.

Class strata in China prisons

HONG KONG, May 27, (AP): A recently published account of prison life by a famed Chinese journalist indicates that members of the elite are receiving far better treatment than others swept up in the crackdown on dissent.

Outspoken journalist Dai Qing, who was among more than 200 political prisoners recently released by the Chinese communist authorities, wrote that her 10 months behind the walls of the maximum-security Qin Cheng prison in Beijing were like staying at a "guest house in a remote town."

Her descriptions of Qin Cheng were the focus of a seven-day series titled: "My life in a

prison," published by the Chinese-language Ming Pao Daily News last week. Sources in Beijing confirmed that the newspaper account was written by Ms Dai, who is in her late 40s.

In the diary Ms Dai said she had a "spacious" 20-square-metre (215-square-foot) room to herself, and it was well lit and included a shower room.

The journalist wrote that she was allowed to spend two hours daily in an open courtyard and was provided with a set of new personal items that included a toothbrush, face towel, pillow cases, quilt and sheets.

"Nobody was rude to me, ... and every request, as long as it was reasonable, was met," she wrote.

Such treatment is not representative of the prison life faced by the vast majority of the thousands of people arrested on accusations of involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, which was crushed last June 4 by Chinese troops.

While ordinary political prisoners generally have not been subject to physical abuse, some reportedly have been put in crowded, unsanitary cells with common criminals and rarely allowed outside for exercise and fresh air.

Manila forms force to fight Red terror

US warns citizens as rebels kill police officer

MANILA, May 27, (Agencies): More than 3,000 troops are to be deployed throughout Manila by Monday to curb a spate of bombings and killings, according to a statement issued today.

Meanwhile, the United States has warned its citizens of a terrorist danger throughout much of the Philippines.

The Philippine military, citing "a breakdown of law and order," has formed an anti-terrorist force to combat communist Death Squads and right-wing army rebels.

Suspected communist rebels shot dead a Philippine police sergeant

today in the third guerrilla attack in the capital in a week, police said, just one day after the military announced the creation of its new elite urban combat brigade.

Sergeant Reynaldo Pascual was chatting with friends when three men approached and opened fire, hitting him in the head and neck, Sergeant Angel Santos said. He died instantly.

The three men walked away and escaped. Police said they suspected communist gunmen were responsible for the attack.

It seems that we now have a breakdown of law and order," paramilitary constabulary chief Major-General Cesar Nazareno said yesterday as he announced the new anti-terrorist force.

The unit armed with high-powered guns, including recoilless rifles, would start operating tomorrow, Nazareno said.

In addition to Pascual, Death Squads gunned down Colonel Reynaldo Dino, a constabulary deputy chief, and seven other people in street ambushes during the past week.

Last Monday two powerful bombs were defused outside two bank headquarters in the financial district Makati. On Wednesday, a colonel and four other people were killed in a daylight ambush on the city's busiest thoroughfare.

On Thursday, a bomb injured a marine near armed forces headquarters, and Friday two police were ambushed and slain.

Police blame the two ambushes on communist rebels and the bombs on military renegades.

On Friday, the Revolutionary Alliance of the Masses, purported leader of the Dec 1-9 coup attempt, threatened to kill banker Domingo Lee for alleged "crimes against the people."

Lee's bank, the Philbanking Corp., was the target of one of the bombs defused Monday. Lee is a leading figure in the Filipino-Chinese business community and a strong supporter of President Corason Aquino.

In a statement today, the shadow Young Officers Union, linked to the December coup attempt, claimed the bombs were part of a plan to justify extending Mrs. Aquino's emergency powers, which expire next month.

A suspected rebel assassin arrested yesterday told police his unit had orders from the hierarchy of the communist New People's Army (NPA) to kill one victim a month.

Congress granted special powers after the December coup attempt. Last week, the cabinet decided to ask Congress to extend those powers for six months.

The union also claimed that Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos was secretly training a mercenary force in Rizal province to launch his own coup in July. Ramos was unavailable for comment but has consistently denied rumours that he was plotting against Mrs. Aquino.

In Washington, the US State Department warned that Americans travelling in the Philippines face an increased risk of terrorism as the two countries prepare for a new set of negotiations on US military bases in the island nation.

US and Philippine negotiators finished a first round of talks May 18 on extending the lease on six US military bases after it expires in September 1991. More talks are expected by July.

A Filipino airman opened fire with an assault rifle during a wake for a colleague in the northern Philippines killing seven people and wounding 12 others officials said today.

Roh ends emotional journey to Japan

SEOUL, South Korea, May 27, (AP): President Roh Tae-Woo returned yesterday from an emotional three-day visit to Japan that he said would help end past enmities and launch a new era of partnership between the Asia neighbours.

Despite expressions of regret by Japanese leaders during his visit over Japan's military past, Roh acknowledged the visit may not have achieved many South Koreans' desire for a clear Japanese apology for its harsh 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea.

"I well understand what feelings my fellow countrymen have about what went on between our country and Japan in the past. No amount of apology can be fully satisfactory," Roh said after arriving at Seoul's airport.

As a symbol of the new relationship, Roh invited Emperor Akihito yesterday to make the first visit to South Korea by a Japanese emperor.

In carefully scripted meetings, the South Korean leader held talks with Akihito, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other top Japanese leaders and was the first South Korean head of state to address a joint session of Japan's parliament.

At a state banquet, Roh heard Akihito express his "deepest regret for the sufferings and pain" Japan inflicted on Korea during its colonial rule.

Roh also heard Kaifu express his "sincere remorse and honest apologies." The Japanese prime minister appealed for the two countries to maintain good relations as a basis for peace and economic development in the region.

At a news conference in Tokyo yesterday, Roh said Akihito's words of regret "were very significant," and said the Emperor and Kaifu had "expressed a common awareness about this unfortunate period between our two countries."

"With this, I feel that myself and the people of my country feel we can put the unfortunate period of our history behind us," Roh said. "In the past there have been some differences in views on how to interpret and look at history. But fortunately with my visit to Japan this time, South Korea and Japan came to gain a common awareness and understanding of the truth of history."

Fire extinguished

ULAN BATOR, May 27, (Reuters): A huge fire which raged for over two weeks has been put out after it destroyed more than 600,000 hectares (1.48 million acres) of woodland, firefighters returning to the Mongolian capital said today.

The fire, in the provinces of Selenge and Bulgan to the north and north west of Ulan Bator, cast a pall of smoke over the capital which blocked out the sun for days.



A Burmese soldier (centre with dark uniform) checks people May 27 entering Burma through the checkpoint of Myawaddy township on the Thai border. (Reuters wirephoto)

Opposition claims landslide victory

Burmese poll

RANGOON, May 27, (Agencies): Burma's opposition said today it was heading for a landslide victory in the country's first multi-party elections in 30 years even though the military government banned its most prominent leaders from standing.

Thousands of supporters danced and sang outside the opposition National League for Democracy headquarters, but ended their celebrations before troops began to enforce the night curfew at 10 pm (1530 GMT).

State radio, announcing the first result, said the League had won Rangoon's port district with 80 per cent of the vote. League candidates said the issue now was whether the military junta, which assumed power after soldiers crushed a pro-democracy uprising in September 1988, would step down.

"We are hoping the transfer of power will be peaceful," said candidate Sein Hla Oo. "It is also the people's hope."

"This is the first time in 30 years the people have been able to say who they want and they want us," said another opposition candidate, who asked not to be identified.

The League's monitors claimed victory in the Pazundaung district with 70 per cent of the vote and in Dagon with 60 per cent.

Although no conclusive results were expected for several days, Burma's 20 million voters appeared to have turned the poll into a show of defiance against the military government.

A bomb buried by anti-government insurgents wounded 14 people in southeastern Burma on

the eve of national elections, official Rangoon Radio said today.

The radio said the bomb exploded in the town of Thabyayay, about 125 miles (200 km) southeast of Rangoon at 1:00 pm yesterday.

It said the unidentified insurgents took advantage of a public brawl to bury a bomb into a private medical clinic.

The bomb injured 14 people including two men and a woman in serious condition, the radio said.

"They (the military) promised the nation and the world they would have free and fair elections but they will delay the transfer of power if the NLD get a majority," said Pe Thien of the Opposition Democratic Party for a new society.

The campaign was marked by restrictions and harassment. Several opposition leaders were detained and banned from standing, including Aung San Sun Kyi, the NLD's popular leader.

But voters turned out in large numbers, the army stayed off the streets and opposition candidates said polling day was free of intimidation.

"There's a lot of resentment out there and this is the first chance in 20 months people have had to express their opinion," said one Western diplomat. "It was an opportunity to show defiance and vent their feelings."

The military state law and order restoration council insisted the elections would be fair, although its leader declined to specify the procedure for surrendering power.

Release prisoners: Chinese dissidents

BEIJING, May 27, (Reuters): Three Chinese democracy activists have written an open letter to the country's leaders urging the release of political prisoners, in one of the boldest public expressions of dissent since June's bloody military crackdown.

Hou Dejian, prominent in last year's democracy protests, said in a recent interview that he, university teacher Gao Xin and economist Zhou Duo had all signed the letter.

"There are three of us now and we are using this letter as a thermometer to test the political heat," said Hou, a rock singer who left a successful recording career in Taiwan in 1983 to move to mainland China.

"I am not going to drive the mad dog (government) crazy," said Hou. "We want to build a new China not by blood but by reason."

The letter specifically demands the release from prison of former university teacher and dissident Lin Xiaobo, arrested after June last year.

"It asks the government to release all non-criminal detainees (arrested following the crackdown)," said Hou, a softly-spoken but eloquent English speaker.

The letter says that while people in many socialist countries have recently enjoyed a "peaceful evolution" toward democracy, Chinese are more repressed than at any time in a decade.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people were killed when troops backed by tanks shot their way into Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 3, meeting limited resistance from civilians armed with little but stones.

After the assault, authorities launched a nation-wide manhunt for fugitive dissidents. Thousands are believed to have been detained without trial and some protesters have been executed.

Hundreds of police prowl Beijing ready to pounce on the first sign of trouble. Students at university say they are too scared to show sympathy for classmates and civilians who died.

Western diplomats said the signing of Hou and his fellows hands China's leaders a dilemma.

If authorities suppress their activities and arrest them, they risk the ire of Western nations already appalled at China's human rights record. But if they do nothing, dissent may grow.

The imprisoned Liu and the three signatories of the letter were on hunger strike in Tiananmen Square the night the tanks thundered in.

Hou escaped briefly to refuge in the Australian embassy from where he emerged in August, but the three others were arrested.

6 die in Cameroon clashes

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, May 27, (AP): A clash between supporters of an opposition party and security forces left six demonstrators dead and many police injured in the English-speaking city of Bamenda, government-controlled radio reported today.

The radio said the dead were trampled to death, but witnesses said they were shot by police. The radio also said the demonstrators stoned and clubbed unarmed police, burned police vehicles and set up barricades before reinforcements arrived and dispersed them.

The clash occurred yesterday when 20,000 supporters of the newly formed Democratic Social Front (DSF) assembled in Bamenda, 60 kilometres (36 miles) east of the Nigerian frontier. Authorities had warned the group it was illegal and should not attempt to hold political meetings.

President Paul Biya has rejected the calls for a multiparty democracy that have been sweeping France's former African colonies.

Cameroon gained independence from France in 1960, but the former British Cameroons did not become part of the country until 1961. Part of the British area was incorporated into Nigeria, and a strip along the eastern Nigerian border was made part of Cameroon.

On May 9, students who support the DSF marched at the University of Cameroon in Yaounde, the capital, carrying signs critical of Biya while singing the Nigerian national anthem.

'Big Five' spell out conditions for future UN role in Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS, May 27, (Reuters): The five powers on the UN Security Council have spelled out conditions on human rights, free elections and outside intervention in Cambodia before permitting the United Nations to help end the country's civil war.

Anticipating planned talks between the warring Cambodian parties in Tokyo next month, the five, in effect served notice the United Nations would not send peacekeepers to rubber-stamp plans that did not

meet these requirements. While welcoming the Tokyo talks, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China, emphasised in a statement yesterday that "only a comprehensive political settlement will bring lasting peace and stability."

Such a settlement must include "specific provisions" for UN control over a ceasefire, the statement said. There must also be an end to foreign military aid, free and fair elections under UN auspices,

human rights and "fundamental freedoms" and a "system" to guarantee the independence, territorial integrity, neutrality and unity of Cambodia.

In contrast to their three previous sessions, the five did not present new peace proposals for Cambodia.

"We're in a different ball game," said a Western diplomat. The five also invited Cambodia to attend their next session, planned for July. And they called on all interested parties to

work towards an early resumption of the Paris conference on Cambodia, main forum for a settlement.

This conference broke up in failure last August when the Vietnamese-installed government of Prime Minister Hun Sen refused any power-sharing with the Khmer Rouge, blamed for hundreds of thousands of deaths when they held power between 1979-80. China supplies arms to the Khmer Rouge, which is in a loose coalition with two pro-Western groups.

Jagmohan removal indicates tactical change in Kashmir policy

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 27. By finally replacing Jagmohan as governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian government seems to have changed its tactical course in relation to the situation in the valley.

Girish Chandra Saxena, the new governor of the sensitive state, has intimate knowledge with the problems in Kashmir, having served earlier as chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Later, he functioned as

security adviser to the cabinet secretariat on Kashmir and Punjab affairs.

The formal announcement about the acceptance of Jagmohan's resignation and Saxena's appointment in his place came late Friday night after the papers were signed by President R. Venkatraman, who is holidaying in Manali in Himachal Pradesh.

Jagmohan's appointment as governor for a second term in January this year was widely criticised. The clamour for his recall grew suddenly this week after Monday's firing by security forces on the funeral procession of

Mir Waiz Maulvi Farooq in Srinagar, in which a large number of people were killed.

Jagmohan flew in to Delhi Thursday night after being summoned by the centre and was later told clearly that he should step down. Later, he flew back to Srinagar to pack up. Political sources say he will be nominated to the Rajya Sabha and that his services might be utilised by the government in some other assignment.

Even as the official announcement was being awaited, BJP president L.K. Advani held a press conference Friday afternoon

where he announced that Jagmohan had resigned. The BJP has always been opposed to any move to recall him and it was widely perceived that he was appointed at the party's instance.

The BJP reacted sharply to Jagmohan's removal and quit from the all-party advisory committee on Kashmir affairs, where it was represented by its general secretary Kedar Nath Sahani.

Advani described the decision to recall Jagmohan as a "monumental blunder" and said

he was not convinced by the prime minister's explanation on the issue. But the party will continue to support the ruling National Front, he said.

Like many others, Advani believed that it was the sudden change in the attitude of the left parties that prompted the government to take the decision. Earlier this week, the left parties spoke out sharply in the Lok Sabha, seeking Jagmohan's removal and found support from Janata Dal leader Chandrashekhar on this demand.

Jagmohan said he had tried to restore nor-

malcy in the Kashmir valley during the five eventful months he was in office, acting according to his perception. Now that he had become an object of controversy, he did not wish to become an obstacle in the process of normalisation, he said.

The fact remains that the troubled state is headed for a critical phase with the transition from Jagmohan to Saxena likely to prove crucial. The decision could not have been easy for the government, considering the difference of opinion on it even within the cabinet.

Liberian rebels step up offensive

MONROVIA, May 27. (Agencies): Liberian rebels fighting to overthrow President Samuel Doe have attacked the town of Kakata, only 64 km (40 miles) northeast of Monrovia, in their closest raid yet to the capital travellers said today.

Travellers on the main road into the interior from the capital on the Atlantic coast said they were stopped at a checkpoint at Careyburg, 32 km (20 miles) from Monrovia, and were told that it was too dangerous to go further.

They said a farmer had been killed on the way to his farm in the Kakata region but it was not known if the city had fallen to the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels led by former Doe associate Charles Taylor, who invaded the north-eastern Nimba County in December from Ivory Coast.

Taylor has said he controls half of the West African country of 2.3 million people, the continent's oldest independent republic, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

He claims to command thousands of armed guerrillas. The rebel leader has vowed to fight on until he ousts Doe, who came to power after the assassination of President William Tolbert in a military coup in 1980.

The rebels took the country's second port Buchanan, 120 km (75 miles) southeast of Monrovia, last weekend.

There have been continued reports of fighting in Buchanan. The government claimed on Thursday to have recaptured the town, which has a population of about 160,000.

Monrovia, a city of 425,000 people, was tense today after a week of panic buying virtually cleared shop shelves. There have been fistfights and hawls at depots where rice is distributed.

In Monrovia, about 500 members of the two tribes — the Gio and Mano — that have largely supported the rebels crowded into the local United Nations headquarters yesterday, pleading for protection from attacks by government forces according to Michael Heyn, chief UN representative in Monrovia.

Heyn said talks were under way with the government to assure their safety.

About 300 people had asked for help from the US embassy on Friday but they were turned away. The refugees said many of their friends and relatives have been killed or detained.

The US and other Western governments have appealed to Liberians to end the ethnic violence and called on Doe to make sure those responsible for the killings were prosecuted.

International organisations and the US Congress earlier condemned government forces, saying they had killed hundreds of civilians in their efforts to defeat the rebels.

9 blacks killed in violent Natal

Mandela criticizes De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, May 27. (AP): Nine blacks were killed in a series of attacks in the violence-torn southeastern province of Natal, police said today.

Some 4,000 blacks have died in faction fighting in Natal since 1986, and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela yesterday accused President F.W. De Klerk's government of encouraging the violence in the region.

De Klerk also came under fire yesterday at a 50,000-strong rally of right-wing whites who vowed to resist his plans to dismantle apartheid.

Six people died and 60 huts were burned down in a battle near Richmond, 70 kms (45 miles) west of the port city of Durban, police said in the daily unrest report that covers the preceding 24 hours. Police Maj. Mike Lombard said the killings were apparently a revenge attack.



Mandela condemns

African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela addresses a rally on May 26 during which he condemned the European tour of South African President F.W. de Klerk as futile and called for maintained sanctions. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anarchy in Gabon

Sharp cut in oil export

LIBREVILLE, May 27. (Reuters): Westerners evacuated from the Gabonese city of Port Gentil spoke of chaos and lawlessness there following anti-government riots. But the French army told a different story.

Port Gentil, the heart of the central African nation's oil industry, was in the hands of armed groups intent on overthrowing President Omar Bongo, the evacuees said.

"The Gabonese army holds the airport but dares not go into town," said a French woman among hundreds of people flown by French military planes from the city where France's Elf-Aquitaine and the Anglo-Dutch Giant Shell have major installations.

But a French army source said Gabonese paratroopers were in position near the refinery, the post office and other key points in the coastal city 130 km (80 miles) from Libreville.

Evacuees said French soldiers guarded the French consulate and other sensitive targets but were keeping a low profile.

In the capital, Libreville, there was no sign of a French uniform on the street. Residents of Port Gentil, including an ELF technician, said oil exploration and export in Gabon, the smallest member of Opec, had been sharply reduced or stopped. Oil company officials were not available to confirm the reports.

Africa's herbal healers

Drugs that can cure or kill

BRAZZAVILLE, May 27. (Reuters): In an office crammed with jars and bottles, Congolese herbalist Charles M'Bemba sells a brown liquid reeking of distilled alcohol which he says cures almost every known intestinal ailment.

"Tetra," according to M'Bemba's literature, can be used to treat gastritis, ulcers and diarrhoea as well as migraine, menstrual disorders, coughs, bronchitis, pleurisy and earache.

Hundreds of miles away, in Ivory Coast, botanist Laurent Ake Assi is trying to identify a brown powder which police suspect may have killed someone treated by a practitioner of traditional African medicine.

A white envelope filled with bits of bark and powder and marked "to identify" has been in his office since January, but he remains baffled as to its contents.

"I grew up in a village where we only had traditional medicine and there were very few deaths," Ake said in an interview.

The real healers are very good — but there are a lot who don't know what they are doing.

That is the paradox of Africa's traditional medicine, which flourishes on a continent where many if not most people cannot afford the luxury of modern medicine but which is abundant in plants — many of them weeds — of proven medicinal value.

Africa is awash with people offering homegrown cures for virtually any ailment, from rashes to Aids,

often with a little magic thrown in.

Some treatments work, some don't and some can cause serious harm.

On a recent tour of the botanical gardens in Ivory Coast's principal city Abidjan, Ake picked leaves and uprooted plants which he said could be used to stop coughing, treat cancer, prevent miscarriages and cure hypertension and insomnia.

In his herbrium, he has specimens of 18,000 plants collected from Ivory Coast and neighbouring countries. Some have been studied for their medicinal properties and a handful are used to make Western medicines, but the properties of most remain unknown — except to traditional African healers.

"The belief in these plants runs deep," Ake said. "At the hospital the patients get Western medicines during the day, but at night when the patient's parents come in they bring the traditional medicines and hide them under the bed."

Secrecy, lack of research and the sheer variety of African plants are among the factors that make doctors trained in Western practices sceptical of traditional cures.

"Traditional healers have a way of thinking that is not really rational," said Prosper Djessou, an Abidjan doctor familiar with traditional medicine.

"They may prescribe the same potion for several illnesses and if it works, fine. If it doesn't it's not their problem."

Police said a man in a township outside Durban was killed in a "necklace" attack, in which a gasoline-soaked tyre is placed around the victim's neck and set alight.

Also, two women were killed in separate incidents near Port Shepstone, a coastal city south of Durban, police added.

Mandela, speaking at a rally near Pretoria yesterday, said that "instead of stopping the violence (in Natal), the government is encouraging the violence."

Despite the thousands of deaths, there have only been a handful of prosecutions.

In a rare criticism of De Klerk, Mandela said, "we feel he is not strong enough to end the violence going on."

Mandela was referring to the fighting in Natal and the actions of the police, who have fired on black demonstrators several times in recent weeks, resulting in more than 20 deaths.

The main combatants in Natal are supporters of the ANC, the country's largest black opposition group, and members of Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu organisation.

Both sides oppose apartheid, but the ANC supports confrontational methods such as a guerrilla campaign, economic sanctions and boycotts that Inkatha does not endorse.

Mandela also said De Klerk was not moving fast enough on his pledge to dismantle apartheid.

Since assuming power last August, De Klerk has launched a series of reforms and seeks to negotiate a new constitution with the ANC and other opposition groups that will include the country's 28-million black majority.

Some 30,000 whites yesterday rallied to protest the reforms, the largest pro-apartheid demonstration since De Klerk came to power.

Andries Treurnicht, leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, said whites would resist any effort to bring about a black government.

In Cincinnati, Anglican Church Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday that a rally in his native country that attracted 40,000 white supporters of apartheid was insignificant compared with the government's new, bold stand against apartheid.

"I'm not surprised by an apartheid rally, the surprising thing is that the government has broken loose from that kind of thinking," said Tutu. "The government is willing to take a risk."

■ Latest: A powerful secret society is trying to heal a split among South Africa's dominant Afrikaners, who are divided over government plans to scrap apartheid, according to a document leaked to a liberal Sunday newspaper.

The initiative could be a warning to reformist President F.W. De Klerk from the shadowy and influential Broederbond (Brotherhood) that he is moving too far, too fast for white Afrikaners, the Johannesburg Sunday Star reported.

Ethiopia jets bomb rebels

NAIROBI, May 27. (Reuters): Ethiopian jets killed 12 civilians when they bombed the small towns of Segeneiti and Digsa, the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) radio reported today.

The raid was the second within a week reported by the EPLF whose radio is monitored in Nairobi.

The bombed towns lie south of Asmara, capital of the northern Eritrean region. It is encircled by EPLF forces who have been fighting the Ethiopian government for 28 years.

Kashmir settlement

Brandt willing to help

ISLAMABAD, May 27. (Reuters): Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt said today he was ready to help India and Pakistan settle their Kashmir dispute which he called a matter of serious concern.

Brandt told a news conference before leaving for New Delhi that he was reluctant to talk of formal mediation over a Muslim uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir and Jammu state, but as chairman of the Socialist International was offering his good offices.

"I will listen to those responsible in Delhi as I have listened to the leading political figures in this country. What may come out of it nobody knows," he said.

India said earlier this month it was not prepared to accept any third-party mediation over its handling of the Kashmir uprising in which at least 550 people have died since January.

"It is hard to arrange a marriage party when only one party is there," Brandt said.

He was followed into Islamabad by US Congressman Stephen Solarz who is also trying to defuse the Kashmir row, which threatens to plunge India



Brandt willing

and Pakistan into their fourth war since independence in 1947.

Pakistan denies Indian charges that it is arming and training secessionist gunmen fighting in Kashmir but the row has dangerously raised tension and both

sides have moved troops into forward positions, according to Western diplomats.

The Socialist International's council called at a meeting in Cairo last week for the two sides to pull their troops back to peacetime positions and open a dialogue.

In other developments, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today conferred the prestigious Pakistani civil award of Nishan-i-Quaide Azam upon Brandt.

A special ceremony held at the presidency was attended by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and National Assembly Speaker Malik Miraj Khalid besides senior officials and West German ambassador in Islamabad.

According to a citation read out on the occasion the NQA was conferred on Brandt in recognition of his contribution to development of relations between Pakistan and Federal Republic of Germany, for his continuing services to the north-south co-operation and for the resolution of Third World problems.

Brandt is currently on a 4-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistani government.

Strike to support Kashmir uprising paralyzes Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 27. (Reuters): A 12-hour strike called to demonstrate support for a secessionist uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir paralysed Bangladesh's third largest city today.

Buses, ferries, trains to and from Khulna, a southern city of 1.1 million people, stayed off their routes, officials said.

Shops and businesses were closed for the strike, which was called by local trade unions and backed by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami Party.

Government offices in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh were open, but with few staff.

Thousands of people marched through the streets, chanting demands for an end to "government-sponsored genocide in Kashmir" and "punishment for the killers and rapists," witnesses said.

They demanded Kashmiris be given the right to decide their own future and called on all Muslims to support pro-independence militants in India's only Muslim-majority state.

More than 300 people have been killed since the secessionist campaign burst into widespread violence in Kashmir in February.

■ The rain-swollen Jamuna river in north Bangladesh has washed away houses in 20 villages over the past two weeks, making at least 25,000 people homeless, officials said today.

They said hundreds of homesteads in Jamalpur and Pabna districts were washed away in the flood waters.

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INTERNATIONAL/MIDEAST

Marchers urged to end protest

BUCHAREST, May 27, (AP)—Romania's leading intellectuals urged anti-communist demonstrators yesterday to end their 35-day occupation of Bucharest's main square, saying they had won "a moral victory" and the fight against neo-communism would continue.

The group for social dialogue issued a statement one day after demonstrators split over whether to continue the protest or to end their blockade of university square and switch to weekly protests.

A crowd of about 1,000 people filled the square cheering speakers who demanded the ouster of president-elect Ion Iliescu, a former Communist Party Politburo member.

The statement, published on the front page of Romania's *Libera*, the most widely read independent daily, said continuing the protest would prolong the suffering of hunger strikers supporting the demonstration. Several of the 14 hunger strikers have been fasting for more than three weeks.

The group said the demonstrators had raised the anti-communist issue at home and abroad and collected millions of signatures on a petition calling for a ban on former high-ranking communists holding public office for 10 years.

Even if it takes some time to achieve their demands, the demonstrators "must be convinced they have obtained a moral victory and that the fight against communism will be continued in many other forms, but in a civic and democratic way."

Saudi-Japan co-production

JEDDAH, May 27, (AP)—The "Voyage of Little Sindbad," a Japanese-Saudi Arabian co-production, will be released in Japan in September, the Jeddah-based Arab News newspaper reported today.

It is Saudi Arabia's first entry into international feature film production.

According to the English-language daily, about 130 theatres in Japan will be showing the film which cost \$10 million.

The movie recounts the journey of a Malaysian boy's search for his father that takes him to the desert kingdom, where the father works.



End hunger strike

Former dissident Doina Cornea (right) is embraced by one of the hunger strikers at University Square in Bucharest. Cornea asked the anti-government protesters to end their hunger strike while addressing the crowd. (Reuters wirephoto)

'This is no way to live'

Film breaks glasnost's last taboos

MOSCOW, May 27, (AP)—The film "This is no way to live" opens with criminals who rape and murder without mercy or regret. Then it makes the case that the Communist Party has been doing the same thing to the Soviet people for 72 years.

The new documentary by Stanislav Govorukhin a sensation before it has even opened at Moscow's cinemas, breaks most of the last taboos left in the glasnost era.

Govorukhin takes all the tragedies of communist rule, all the humiliation of daily Soviet life, and all his personal indignation at the fate of his country, and rolls them into an indictment so powerful that it would seem authorities had no choice but to ban the film.

But the authorities have changed. The Foreign Ministry staged a screening, Moscow City Council deputies have pledged to bring the movie to the capital's cinemas, and Govorukhin said that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev himself proclaimed it "wonderful" after a private viewing.

"For the life of me, I can't understand how Gorbachev could like it," he said, sounding distressed.

"This is no way to live" begins with graphic scenes of rape and murder in a style familiar to viewers of Leningrad TV's "600 seconds," a daily programme that frequently shows close-ups of burned or bloodied corpses and other grisly crime scenes.

Then it moves into part 2: "criminals in power." Beginning with the 1918 murder of Tsar Nicholas II and other members of the royal Romanov family, it presents viewers with one Bolshevik crime against the people after another: The mass slaughter of the "bourgeoisie" under Lenin; the artificially created Stalin; the destruction of churches and liquidation of the priesthood; the distortion of people's consciousness with ideological propaganda; and the impoverishment of the vast, rich country through

'Use any means possible to crush'

Nicu admits ordering secret police to halt uprising

BUCHAREST, May 27, (UPI)—Nicu Ceausescu, the playboy son of Romania's executed dictator, admitted yesterday, at the opening day of his trial on genocide charges, he ordered secret police to "use any means possible" against pro-democracy protesters.

Nicu, once known as the "Little Prince," wore sunglasses but looked gaunt and frightened as a judge read charges of genocide and weapons offences against him in a heavily guarded courtroom in Sibiu, where he was once Communist

Party chief.

When asked his name and address he answered in a murmur.

Under questioning, the 39-year-old former youth minister conceded telling local security forces to halt the rebellion against his father, Nicolae Ceausescu. But he said he later told them not to use gunfire.

"The city was in a state of war and (police) should use any means possible to crush the uprising," he said, recalling his initial instructions to the Securitate secret police in Sibiu.

He testified that he requested a military airplane to flee the country after his father was overthrown.

Widely regarded as a womanizer and a gambler, his extravagant lifestyle and rumoured cruelty made him one of the most hated men in Romania.

"They hate him as much as they hated Ceausescu," said deputy chief prosecutor Col Miguere Florescu.

Asked whether he was drunk during a telephone conversation with his father about unrest in the western city of Timisoara on Dec 17, he said he was "a bit euphoric."

The first three prosecution witnesses described the minor roles they played as protests gained strength in Sibiu and around the country, but they scarcely touched on the central issues.

Nicu, known as an efficient administrator who protected Sibiu county from the worst excesses of his father's rule, claimed that it was public knowledge that he disagreed with his father's policies.



Nicu gestures during the first day of his trial in Sibiu May 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Deport Rushdie and take back hostages'

'Britain ready for direct talks with Iran'

BEIRUT, May 27, (AP)—A Shiite Muslim leader said today at least one of four British hostages in Lebanon could be released if British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher departs writer Salman Rushdie for allegedly defaming Islam.

Hussein Musawi also said the May 19 massacre of seven Palestinian labourers by an Israeli gunman will have a negative effect on efforts to free six American hostages in Lebanon.

"I believe and hope that some of the British hostages could be freed if left the country."

"She can send him anywhere she wants," Musawi said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press from his headquarters in the Bekaa Valley town of Baalbek in east Lebanon.

The Britons and Americans are among 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon. Most are held by pro-Iranian Shiite factions.

Tehran severed relations with Britain in February 1989 after London accused the Iranians of terrorism and protested Khomeini's action. Rushdie has been in hiding under guard ever since.

The Iranians say Khomeini's "fatwa," or religious ruling, cannot be tampered with and that all Muslims have the right to kill Rushdie for defaming their religion.

Britain broke relations with Syria, Iran's main Arab ally, in October 1986 after its intelligence services were linked to an attempt to plant a bomb aboard an Israeli jetliner at London's Heathrow airport earlier that year.

Iran and Syria were instrumental in obtaining the release last month of American hostages Robert Polhill and Frank Reed as "goodwill gestures."

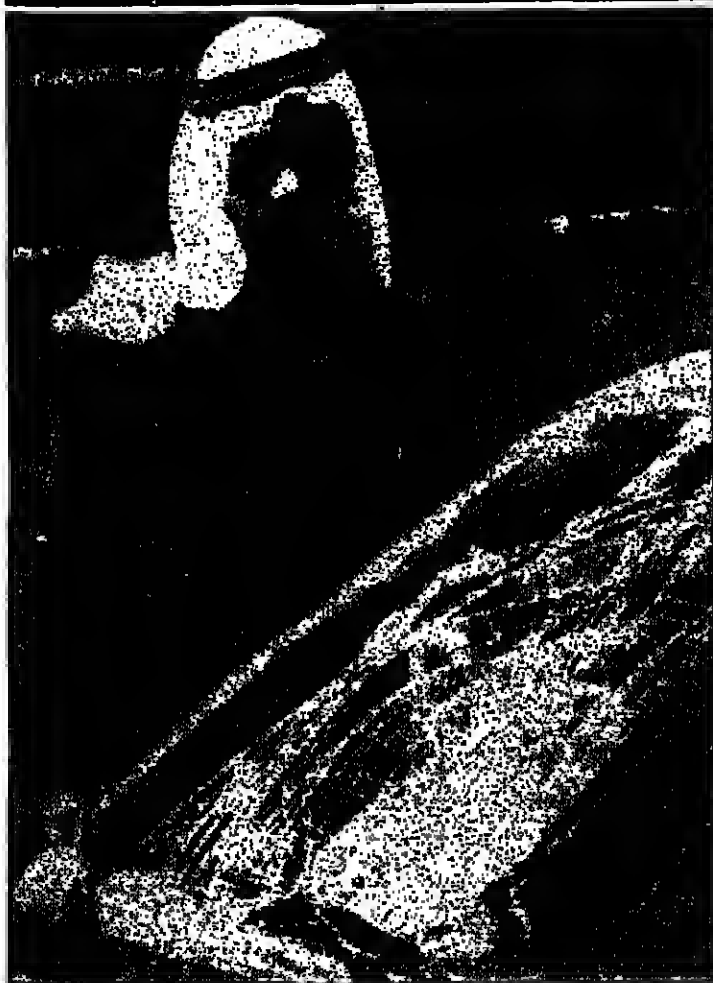
But the Iranians have said there will be no more Americans freed until Washington makes a reciprocal gesture. President George Bush has refused, citing his administration's policy of not negotiating with terrorists and those who support them.

"I believe that the British, unlike the Americans, are now behaving in positive manner that may encourage the hostage-holders to free a British hostage as a goodwill gesture," Musawi added.

"We hear that a British delegation may visit Iran and Syria to discuss the issue of their hostages," said Musawi.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani attacked the West today for doing nothing to help free three Iranian hostages in Lebanon or press Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners.

Rafsanjani said the West should have stepped up efforts to determine the fate of the Iranians and free the Arab prisoners following the release of two American hostages last month.



Smashed windscreen

An Arab from East Jerusalem looks at the smashed windscreen of his car after Palestinian youths in the West Bank town of Ramallah attacked the car with large rocks earlier. (Reuters wirephoto)

France denies Iraq deal

PARIS, May 27, (Reuters)—Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said yesterday he had no knowledge of sophisticated French missile guidance systems being smuggled to Iraq.

The New York Times said a French-made system to guide long-range ground-to-ground missiles had been exported despite a European Economic Community treaty banning the sale of such weaponry.

"Investigators find it hard to imagine that Mr Chevenement's ministry is unaware of the smuggling," the paper said.

It said the system had enabled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to boast that he could devastate half of Israel.

In a written statement, Chevenement said the French strictly applies the rules set by the seven industrialised nations in the field of ballistic non-proliferation. It in no way helps Iraq in this field.

He added that the Defence Ministry had no knowledge of French equipment covered by the accord "being waylaid for the benefit of Iraq."

Atlantic to Urals Greater Europe

HEIDELBERG, West Germany, May 27, (Reuters)—West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called today for a new transatlantic partnership to create a Europe stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals.

In a speech in Heidelberg, he said the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) should be given a new and more formal role as Eastern Europe turns to democracy and the importance of the rival alliances diminishes.

"It is a question of a greater Europe, bound solidly and in solidarity with North America within the framework of a broad North Atlantic zone of close political friendship, common security, fruitful co-operation and stable prosperity," he said.

Genscher said the potential of the CSCE framework should be fully exploited, with regular meetings of heads of government and ministers. "Through the CSCE we can link the whole of Europe with America," he said.

Soviet border situation tense

MOSCOW, May 27, (Reuters)—A senior Soviet general said today tensions were rising on the country's frontiers from Poland to Afghanistan, and a thorough review of border policing was needed.

Lieutenant-General Ilya Kalinichenko said the 200,000-strong border guard he heads needed complete reorganisation to cope with new problems which reflected changes sweeping the Baltic and East European states and contained unrest in Afghanistan.

"All events in our country, whether we want them or not, reflect on our frontiers," he said.

Muslim militias on alert in Beirut

BEIRUT, May 27, (AP)—Rival Shiite Muslim militias went on combat alert in Beirut today after a bomb exploded in the city's southern shuma, scene of heavy fighting two days earlier.

Police reported no casualties from the bombing in the Hajjaj neighbourhood, one of the main battlegrounds in the clashes between the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hezbollah, and the Syrian-backed Amal Movement.

Five people were killed and 42 wounded in 15 hours of street battles between the two groups in west and south Beirut before Syrian troops intervened yesterday.

Hezbollah accused Amal of planting the bomb in Hajjaj and said Amal militiamen tossed a hand grenade at a Hezbollah position in south Beirut at dawn today. They did not mention any casualties.

The two factions have been fighting intermittently since May 1987 for control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect.

By police count, 1,049 people have been killed and 3,136 wounded in that power struggle.

Syrian troops continued to patrol flashpoint areas in the Bir Hassan district, around the city's war-torn sports stadium and near the Iranian cultural centre in the Mossaitbeh district.

The Iranian Embassy in west Beirut was badly damaged by mortar and machine-gun fire during night battles in which one person was killed and seven were wounded, security sources said today.

"Some undisciplined militiamen attacked the diplomatic centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran... the command of the Syrian forces was contacted and the attackers' guns were silenced," an Iranian Embassy statement said.

It said the Syrians inspected the damage and promised to protect the embassy from further attacks.

Egypt nabs 13 heroin smugglers

CAIRO, May 27, (Reuters)—Police at Cairo airport caught 13 Nigerians today who had swallowed capsules of heroin to smuggle them from Bangkok to Lagos, security sources said.

They said five men and eight women were caught with 20 kg (44 pounds) of heroin with a street value of £20 million (\$7.4 million). Two of the women were pregnant.

Yugoslav premier runs into political row over plans for new party

BELGRADE, May 27, (Reuters)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic ran into a political row today over plans to create a party separate from the ruling communists to contest a free general election expected later this year.

Markovic told Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation in an interview on Friday that he and his communist government intended to form a new party and rally a coalition around his programme of Western-style economic

reforms. He hinted he may run against the League of Communists (LCY), which has ruled Yugoslavia for 45 years, in the country's first free federal election since before World War two.

But Serbian newspapers attacked Markovic's remarks and a government statement last week demanding that the results of free regional elections which ousted the communists in the republics of Croatia and Slovenia are respected.

"If we take into account the fact that Ante Markovic and the government came to power thanks to the LCY, this must appear at the very least incomprehensible and shameful," the Serbian newspaper *Politika* Ekspres said today.

It suggested that Markovic sought a monopoly on power, although he made clear in Friday's interview that he wanted to remain prime minister only if elected in a free poll.

"With its statement (on the elections in

Slovenia and Croatia), the cabinet of Ante Markovic has stabbed in the back the state of law which he so passionately advocates, especially abroad. He has done this by legalising fascism," the daily said.

It appeared to be referring to the victory in Croatia of the Croatian Democratic Union, which has been accused of fervent nationalism by the media in Serbia, the biggest of the six Yugoslav republics and an advocate of strong central rule.

Ties with US head for crisis: Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (Reuters): Israel's ambassador to the United States was quoted today as saying the Jewish state faced a severe crisis in relations with its closest ally unless it advanced Middle East peace efforts.

Yediot Ahronoth, Israel's biggest-selling daily, quoted what it said was a secret cable from Ambassador Moshe Arad to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

"Israel stands before a grave crisis in its relations with the United States which obliges it to re-examine its policies, particularly on contentious issues, chiefly the peace process and settlement," the cable said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could not comment on internal documents but a government source acknowledged relations were strained.

"The situation is difficult, there's no denying it," he said.

Arad's warning was leaked as ministers voiced satisfaction in a cabinet meeting that Israel had apparently blunted a drive by PLO leader Yasser Arafat to have UN observers sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army lifted curfews from all remaining West Bank towns and part of the Gaza Strip today. But clashes soon erupted in Gaza and troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp.

The United States angered Israel last week by saying it was ready to discuss sending a UN observer team. But at a UN Security Council meeting in Geneva on Friday and Saturday it blocked the idea of Security Council involvement.

Ties with Washington, which gives Israel \$3 billion a year, have deteriorated sharply since Shamir refused in March to accept US proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

His Labour coalition partners quit in response, leaving Shamir at the head of a hardline caretaker cabinet. Relations cooled further after Shamir's government admitted, secretly, funding a Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city and supported two new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

US criticism of Israel's handling of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising in the territories sharpened last week after a crazed Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers. Troops and Jewish settlers have killed 17 more and wounded about 900 in subsequent protests.

Israel continued to reject any UN mission to the occupied territories today and dismissed Arafat's speech to the special Geneva session of the Security Council as exploiting the killings for political ends.

"Israel will not agree to a mission of the United Nations which will come by virtue of a Security Council resolution or on behalf of it or to any UN delegation which will be connected with the subject of security in the territories," Arens told the cabinet.

Despite the ban on UN observers, unofficial watchdogs abounded at the weekend in a show of international concern.

Europeans consider sanctions

LONDON, May 27. (Kunza): Several European countries, including most surprisingly the pro-Israel Netherlands, are understood to be seriously considering sanctions against Israel following last week's massacre of Palestinian labourers, according to a report today.

The Observer newspaper said the suggestion was disclosed in Geneva, where the UN Security Council finished a special two-day session on the Palestinian crisis.

The paper described the emergency meeting which was addressed by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as an "almost complete success" from the Palestinian point of view and left the Israelis "both angry and adamant."

Now Israel could face much harsher international condemnation and sanctions like those used against South Africa, it added.

In another article, the same paper warned that "not since 1973 has the atmosphere been so fraught with menace" in the Middle East.

"Nor is it possible at this stage to see how the growing aggression can be calmed down," the weekly indicated.



Israelis march for peace

About 20,000 Israelis demonstrated on Saturday night to condemn violence between Arabs and Israelis and to urge their government to increase efforts to achieve peace.

The protest was spurred by the mass killing of seven Arab labourers by an Israeli soldier Sunday and the subsequent riots in the Israeli-occupied territories in which 16 Arabs were killed and nearly 900 wounded.

Author Amos Oz, the main speaker, told the quiet, candle-carrying crowd that lack of progress in Arab-Israeli peace efforts was to blame for the violence. "Don't blame the entire people of Israel, don't even blame the hawkish right for the mad dog massacre, but blame the government for the stalemate in the peace process and blame ourselves for not intensifying and increasing the struggle for peace," Oz said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gaza clash as curfew relaxes

Troops kill Arab youth

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (Agencies): The army eased its longest curfew on the occupied Gaza Strip today, and troops shot dead a Palestinian when clashes erupted in a crowded refugee camp, hospital officials said.

Arab reports said 10 other Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers as curfews confining people to their homes were lifted for more than half the 750,000 Arab residents of the strip.

Curfews were imposed on Gaza and the West Bank on May 20 after seven Arab labourers were massacred by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, setting off a wave of protest riots that left 22 dead and hundreds wounded.

"Most curfews have been lifted in the West Bank, where two Palestinians were reported wounded today in a clash with soldiers in Jenin. In Gaza, about 300,000 Palestinians remained confined to their homes in Gaza City and surrounding refugee camps.

Palestinian reporters said most Gaza Arabs stayed away from jobs in Israel after leaders of the Palestinian uprising urged a strike until June 7 to protest the massacre. But the army reported a "steady stream of workers" was seen leaving for jobs in Israel.

In Jerusalem, a spokesman for the anti-Arab Kach movement said that Ami Popper, the 21-year-old Israeli suspected of murdering the seven Arab workers, was not on the membership roles of the organisation. But spokesman Baruch Marzel said Popper could have taken part in Kach rallies without belonging to the group.

Marzel was responding to a report in the Yediot Ahronoth saying Popper was linked to the group. Israeli officials have described Popper as "deranged" and "nursed by a failed love affair."

In Gaza today clashes erupted in the Deir Balah refugee camp and Israeli troops fatally shot 17-year-old Iyad Mohammed Abu Diab, camp residents said.

Diab arrived dead at Nasser Hospital with a live bullet wound in the chest, hospital officials said. A military spokesman said the death was confirmed through the hospital.

Diab's cousin, Rula told the Associated Press that when the curfew order was cancelled, hundreds of youths confronted Israeli soldiers in the shanty town home of more than 10,000 population.

"The camp was full of youths and soldiers. He (Diab) was shot in the chest while standing," she said, adding she did not know if he was taking part in the demonstration.

In Arab East Jerusalem, meanwhile Palestinian leaders entered the eight day of a hunger strike over the massacre.

The security council adjourned and is expected to decide on Arafat's call later this week. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said yesterday that Israel would not allow a UN force of any sort for any length of time because it would be a detrimental to the peace process.

"There is no decision that Israel will agree to accept the UN secretary-general or someone else here on his behalf," Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Naveh told Reuters.

Western diplomats visited 42 prominent Palestinians in East Jerusalem who have been on hunger strikes since last Sunday to demand a UN force to protect Arabs.

A spokesman for the nationalist leaders said European diplomats backed their call for observers, but that the US representative did not.

"The American official said his government's position is that there should not be a Security Council resolution," Nicola Dabit, a spokesman for the strikers said.

20,000 Jews expected per month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (AP): Immigration officials said today Israel expects the number of Soviet immigrants to increase to 20,000 each month starting this summer.

Gad Ben Ari, spokesman for the quasi-governmental Jewish agency which is responsible for immigration, told the Associated Press the rise in arrivals would result from increasing the number of Jews leaving by existing transit routes.

Ben Ari declined to go into details. Israeli officials have refused to discuss exact routes following threats by Arab extremists to block the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Finland agreed earlier this month to allow its soil to be used as a transit point. Most Soviet Jews have been coming via Romania and Hungary since the Soviet Union refused regular direct flights.

The new wave of Soviet immigrants has caused a controversy because of Palestinian fears that many of them will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The immigration also have affected Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, which has refused to renew formal diplomatic relations cut after the 1967 Middle East war. Washington also has warned against using US funds to settle Jews on occupied land.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said last week that Arab fears that Palestinians would be forced off their land was a "red herring" since only a few hundred Soviets have moved to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

However, several thousand have moved into housing complexes in occupied east Jerusalem which was captured from Jordan in the 1967 war and annexed by Israel which now considers it part of the Jewish state.

Officials expect about 150,000 Soviet Jews this year. So far about 40,000 have arrived. Simcha Dimitz, head of the Jewish agency, was quoted in Israeli media Monday as saying 20,000 Jews would begin arriving each month because of an increase in the number and efficiency of transit routes.

Egypt stressed its opposition to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israeli-occupied areas in talks yesterday with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Passio.

Finland this month agreed to act as a transit point for Soviet Jewish migrants but President Mauno Koivisto said the decision would be reconsidered if they settled in the occupied territories.

At least 16 Palestinians were killed and almost 900 were wounded in the ensuing riots. "Despite the bloody repression Arafat did not press for US visa and in his speech he reaffirmed his commitment to a negotiated settlement with Israel," the Arab diplomat said.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said he had noted a shift in the long-standing US support of Israel by President George Bush's administration. But he called for this change to be translated into deeds.

"Arafat went out of his way to persuade the Americans to pressure Israel into moderation and what did he get in exchange? — nothing," said the diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

He said Arafat would go to Baghdad empty-handed after travelling to Geneva hoping at least for agreement on a token visit to the territories by a UN team.

The idea, mooted by moderate Egypt, was for a team made up of Security Council members France, Canada and Ethiopia to investigate the situation in the territories before the Arab summit start.

"It was not exactly what Arafat called for but it would have been construed by the PLO as a gesture of goodwill on the part of the world community, particularly the United States, and it would have gone a long way towards strengthening his position before the conference," said a European diplomat.

Aid groups threatened

Afghan women afraid

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, May 27. (AP): Hidden behind a voluminous shawl, a young Afghan woman glanced around nervously before hurrying into a walkway compound lost in a maze of dusty alleyways that snake through Peshawar.

She calls herself Farida because she's afraid to use her real name and because she's on a long hit-list compiled by self-declared Muslim fundamentalist protectors of Islamic purity.

"For 10 years I've been with these people. They are not like humans," Farida said of the radicals. "Sometimes they call me and say 'we want to kill you.'"

Muslim fundamentalists who once aimed their fury at the Soviet Union now are targeting Western humanitarian aid groups and threatening "revolutionary action" against Afghan women who work in their programmes.

These tribunals have adopted a variety of names — the Council of Islamic Jihad (Holy War), Reformist Movement of Muslim Youth and Mujahid Brothers. But their memberships are a mystery.

Leaders of the guerrillas trying to overthrow Afghanistan's communist-style government disavow any knowledge of them. Western diplomats can't identify them.

But they have made their presence known through letters warning Afghan women to disassociate themselves from these organisations.

More than 3 million Afghan war refugees live in camps around this frontier town at the foot of the Khyber Pass, the historical thoroughfare for invading hordes en route to the Indian subcontinent.

Scores of humanitarian and organisations set up headquarters in Peshawar after Moscow sent its troops into Afghanistan in 1979 and refugees started streaming across the border into Pakistan by the hundreds of thousands.

Almost 12 years and billions of dollars later, the humanitarian aid groups are being battered by the same Islamic fervor once hurled at the Soviet Union, which withdrew its soldiers last year.

Letters signed by the groups and written either by hand or on a word processor began circulating last week in the dried-mud refugee camps.

One letter warned against the aid groups' "immoral activities, one of the characteristics and products of Western civilisations, which is not proper for Muslim women." The letter was referring to an English programme.

A week earlier, an angry mob of about 5,000 attacked the programmes run by Shelter Now International, financed by several Christian groups, and caused almost \$1 million damage. The targets were a sewing centre for Afghan widows and a girls' elementary school at the sprawling Nasir Bagh, considered the showcase among the 250 refugee camps in the North West Frontier Province. The mob was urged on by clerics denouncing Western influence from loudspeakers surrounding the mosques.

Aid groups are trying to remain calm. "No one wants to get hysterical," said Ted Albers, a spokesman for Achar, an umbrella group embracing 51 different aid groups. "Most refugees have nothing to do with this whole business."

Deep divisions and political rivalries among the seven resistance parties have triggered a lot of uncertainties for the refugees. Albers said. However, he said, there is no proof of a co-ordinated attempt to destabilise Western aid programmes.

One Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested the growing hostility is a last ditch power play by the orthodox Muslims among the US-backed guerrilla leadership. Once inside Afghanistan, Western diplomats and many Afghans say, some of the fiercest fundamentalists among the guerrilla resistance would fade into oblivion for lack of support.

Yet firebrand guerrillas like Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have benefited most from Western assistance. Tales abound of how the charismatic Hekmatyar known for his heated anti-West rhetoric, threw acid in the face and on the arms and legs of unveiled Afghan women in the early 1970s before his flight to Pakistan.

Afghan President Najibullah has played up the fundamentalist card in his well-orchestrated propaganda campaign against the guerrillas, known as mujahideen or "Islamic Holy Warriors."

Women, particularly teen-age girls, in the Afghan capital of Kabul say they fear they would be forced back into purdah, the tent-like veil used by Muslims to hide women from strangers, if hard-liners like Hekmatyar or Abdul Rasul Sayyaf came to power.

Sayyaf, an orthodox Muslim and prime minister of the self-proclaimed government-in-exile, refuses to talk to female journalists and forces Western women in his presence to put on billowing tent-like veils.



Vanunu appeal rejected

Israel's supreme court rejected the appeal of Mordechai Vanunu Sunday, upholding his 1988 conviction on three counts of espionage and treason and his 18-year prison sentence. Israel radio reported.

Vanunu claimed at his trial he acted out of his moral opposition to nuclear warfare when he gave the Sunday Times of London details and photographs of Israel's top-secret Dimona plant deep under the Negev Desert. Vanunu, an Israeli Jew who converted to Christianity, worked as a technician at the plant for nearly 10 years.

Vanunu told the Sunday Times that Israel had secretly stockpiled between 100 and 200 nuclear bombs over the past 20 years.

As with his trial, the appeal was held in camera. Vanunu's family and subsequent journalistic investigations revealed Vanunu was lured out of England by Israeli intelligence services and kidnapped in Rome, nearly two months before the Israeli government announced he was in Israeli custody. The government denied he was abducted abroad in announcing he was in custody.

Above Vanunu is hustled into court as a plain clothed security personnel (foreground) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Afghan troops thwart attack

ISLAMABAD, May 27. (AP): Afghan government troops have thwarted an attack on the besieged garrison of Khost, killing 380 Muslim rebels, state-run Kabul Radio reported.

Seven soldiers and four civilians also died and 15 civilians were wounded in yesterday's attack on the garrison, located 30 kilometres (15 miles) from the Pakistan border, said the radio report, monitored in Islamabad.

The radio also said rebels fired 27 US-made rockets into residential areas of the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing six people and wounding 12.

The Pakistan-based rebels have been trying for 12 years to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan.

The rebels, known as mujahideen, insist they target only military installations but admit their rockets sometimes misfire and hit residential areas. More than 100 rockets have hit the capital in the past week, killing more than a dozen people.

Western diplomats in Pakistan said the rebels apparently stepped up their attacks on Kabul to coincide with preparations for a loya jirga, or traditional grand council. The assembly is expected to approve major changes in the constitution and loosen the grip of the communist-style People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan that seized power in a 1978 coup.

In Khost, the radio said, thousands of rebels launched a major attack on the town but were repelled by troops loyal to Afghan President Najibullah. "The attack was foiled by prompt counter-operations by the military forces and 380 extremists were wiped from the front line and large amounts of arms and ammunition were seized," it said.

Claims by both sides are often exaggerated and difficult to verify.

Religious rhetoric in Algerian campaign

ALGIERS, May 27. (Reuters): Muslim fundamentalists have seized the initiative with fiery religious rhetoric in an otherwise lacklustre campaign for Algeria's first free elections since independence.

Two weeks before local polls likely to end 27 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN), many newly legal political parties are bogged down in financial woes and internal squabbles.

Many ordinary Algerians are sceptical about whether the elections will help them overcome their most pressing problems — lack of jobs and housing and soaring prices.

"Many people still don't believe too much in the political opening up. They are sceptical," said Youssef Kheif of the Social Democratic Party (PSD).

So far in Algiers, the capital of 1.7 million people, poster boards set up for the campaign are often blank and there is little sense that history is being made.

But the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which seeks to build an Islamic state, is filling the void.

Bearded, white-robed FIS activists have been stringing up banners across streets in Belcourt, Farhat Bou Saad, Hamma, Kouba, Hussein Dey and Bab Al Oued — low-income Algiers neighbourhoods where they are strongest.

"Your vote is a trust, they will ask you about it on the day of judgement" say the banners. "Neither East nor West — Islamic municipalities," says another.

FIS candidate in Hamma, Abdelhamid Hariti, told a rally recently God would punish those who did not vote for a "Muslim" — apparently meaning a FIS candidate.

Recounts ordered in Syrian elections

DAMASCUS, May 27. (Reuters): Syria today ordered recounts of general election votes at nearly 900 polling stations in Damascus after some candidates disputed the results.

Interior Minister Mohammed Harba would oversee the counting personally, officials said. Final results of the election, the liveliest in 20 years, would be announced later in the day.

Failure to send UN team to West Bank, Gaza shows Israel still calling shots

GENEVA, May 27. (Reuters): Failure by the United States to persuade Israel to accept a UN team to investigate violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip could strengthen the hand of Middle East hardliners, disappointed Arab diplomats said.

They said the outcome of a special Geneva session of the UN Security Council showed Israel still called the shots in Washington even though Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he detected a shift in the American attitude.

"We are very bitter. It can only aggravate the situation in the occupied territories, give the hardliners the upper hand at next week's Arab summit in Baghdad and exacerbate anti-US feelings," said a diplomat from a moderate Arab country at the end

of the two-day session yesterday. "Israel still has a stranglehold on the decision-making process," complained Arab League ambassador Clovis Maksoud after the meeting was adjourned.

The special session was called in Geneva to enable Arafat, who might have been denied a US visa, to address the 15-member council. It is due to resume in New York on Tuesday.

In an hour-long speech on Friday, Arafat called for an emergency UN force to be set up to protect Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories where a 29-month-long Arab uprising exploded in to some of its most serious violence after a lone Israeli gunman killed seven Palestinian labourers last Sun-

day. At least 16 Palestinians were killed and almost 900 were wounded in the ensuing riots.

"Despite the bloody repression Arafat did not press for US visa and in his speech he reaffirmed his commitment to a negotiated settlement with Israel," the Arab diplomat said.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said he had noted a shift in the long-standing US support of Israel by President George Bush's administration. But he called for this change to be translated into deeds.

"Arafat went out of his way to persuade the Americans to pressure Israel into moderation and what did he get in exchange? — nothing," said the

diplomat, who asked not to be identified. He said Arafat would go to Baghdad empty-handed after travelling to Geneva hoping at least for agreement on a token visit to the territories by a UN team.

The idea, mooted by moderate Egypt, was for a team made up of Security Council members France, Canada and Ethiopia to investigate the situation in the territories before the Arab summit start.

"It was not exactly what Arafat called for but it would have been construed by the PLO as a gesture of goodwill on the part of the world community, particularly the United States, and it would have gone a long way towards strengthening his position before the conference," said a European diplomat.

API to concentrate on social research

Training courses main objective

THE director-general of Kuwait based Arab Planning Institute (API) Abdullah Mohammed Ali was quoted as saying that the major objective of the institute is to provide training courses for Arab specialists and employees.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the institute introduced training programmes dealing with the economic and social development in addition to symposiums handling Arab development planning and organising seminars and meetings for Arab experts to debate issues related to Arab development.

Meanwhile, the official provided some background on the institute. He pointed out that Kuwait in 1966 set up Kuwait Institute for Economic and Social Planning in co-operation with UN Development Programme (UNDP) as an independent Kuwaiti institution and according to the agreement concluded with UNDP in this connection the management of the institute has been awarded to the UNDP.

But in 1972 and at a suggestion submitted by the State of Kuwait, the institute was transformed into an independent Arab institution called Arab Planning Institute.

He added that the member states had in 1975 concluded an agreement with UNDP for five years, whereby, UNDP undertook to provide the institute with the necessary international experts and scholarships. This agreement, he said had expired in 1980 and the member states agreed to keep the institute as independent Arab institution for twenty years and currently includes most Arab countries.

Speaking of the institute schemes, the official said that the institute was concentrating on social research and training courses in addition to contributions in developing and planning methods of the member states.

He added that during the past five years, the institute organised six training courses in development planning in addition to about 65 specialised short term programmes which lasted between 3 and 4 weeks each in addition to about 22 national programmes for the member states, 18 meetings for experts and 14 seminars.

He added that the budget of the institute for the fiscal year 1990/91 was estimated at KD900,000 to be financed by the member states including Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Shops for Asians doing roaring trade

Filipinos biggest spenders

AS the Asian community has been growing in Kuwait in recent years, shops specialised in selling them commodities have also been increasing. The area in the capital around Sheraton Hotel and the General Post Office has been almost completely occupied by shops specialised in selling Asian commodities for Indians, Sri Lankans, Filipinos and other Asians who gather in large number on Fridays and Sundays in that area. Some commercial centres have become totally specialised in Asian goods only. All the shops in these centres provide the various needs of Asians in Kuwait.

paying as much as KD50. Their motive is that they celebrate this occasion only once a year.

But Florence voiced pessimism because the number of Asian shops has been increasing in a big way. Competition has become tough as the number of shops trying to attract Asians have become many. She did not rule out that some shops may file for bankruptcy as a big surplus is existing in the market. Profits have naturally dropped. Only big old shops involved in directly importing Asian food still manage to secure good profits.

At the Karnak Commercial Centre, which almost wholly caters to Asians, one of the few Arab shop owners, Hesham, said that there is a very good purchasing power in the market but added that it mostly comes from Filipinos. Indians and other Asians have a lower tendency to spend money. Filipinos spend much on food and clothing and they love to buy jeans and sport clothes, Hesham added.

An employee at a Sri Lankan restaurant in that Commercial Centre said that the restaurant

does good business, specially on Sundays and Fridays when many of the 180,000 strong Sri Lankan community in Kuwait opt to eat out. The restaurant also offers food for many Europeans who like Oriental food. The cashier of the restaurant said that Filipinos are the biggest spenders among Asians on food. They eat without caring for the price while Indians and others are usually more selective-opt for cheaper dishes. He said that in most cases, other nationalities drop in to have coffee or some beverages while the Filipinos insist on ordering a meal costing at least KD2 at a time when their salaries may not be more than KD80 per month.

But he said that the business of the Filipino restaurants in Kuwait has dropped recently because Filipino spending has dropped. The reason for this is the increasingly high living costs in the Philippines and the need for Filipinos in Kuwait to save more to send money back home. The daily sales of the restaurant range from KD180-200 and the invested capital is about KD20,000.

Random storage causing fires

KUWAIT Municipality sources have said that random storage of high-risk wastes is the primary cause of fires and explosions which spread poisons and are detrimental to human health.

Commenting on an article published by a local daily on unguided storage of wastes and resultant jeopardy to human health, sources said that unscientific storage of dangerous wastes must be done far from residential quarters.

Sources added that a special site has been allocated for this purpose which will soon be handed over to the health affairs at the Municipality.

The site will be used for treatment of dangerous wastes which could otherwise spread poisons emanating from the slow decomposition of these wastes and potentially be the sources of fire outbreaks.

The sources said that these wastes are divided into two types, one that covers household, commercial and agricultural which are disposed of by underground burial, while the second type includes the dangerous wastes that pose considerable threat to human health and environment, and these are disposed of either through incineration or burial, in co-operation with the Environmental Protection Council.

Housemaid acquitted of planned murder charge

THE Criminal Court has acquitted a housemaid from the charge of premeditated murder of her employer.

The employer told the court that the maid had after only five days of work at her employer's house requested to leave her job and when she refused to let her go the maid charged at her with a knife in her hand meaning to stab her.

She claimed that the other two maids stopped the maid from stabbing her and they managed to hold her at 1.5 metres away from the employer.

However, the two housemaids testified that the maid did not mean to kill her employer but only intended to get her to approve her request to leave her job.



Omani envoy

Commerce and Industry Ministry Undersecretary, Abdullah Al Hamed received at his office the Omani Ambassador to Kuwait, Heial Bin Salem Al Seyebi. The ambassador handed him a message from the Omani Commerce and Industry Minister to Kuwaiti Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khaleel relating to the commercial and industrial bilateral relations and co-ordination between the two countries.

Agriculture and husbandry

Contribution to GNP increasing

THE chairman of Kuwait's Agricultural Co-operative Societies Union Barak Nasser Al Noun was quoted as saying that the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Kuwaiti gross national product is increasing from one year to another and production has increased to more than double during the last decade.

In an interview with a local daily, the official attributed such an increase to the concern paid by the government to this sector particularly through its development plans.

He added that vegetable crops had gained a tangible concern during the past period and has emerged tops through the hefty bounty given by Al Wafra and Al Abdali farms.

Agricultural sector contribution to the gross national product (GNP) had increased from 0.4 per cent at the beginning of 1980 to about one per cent in 1989, Al Noun said.

He added that the sufficiency of some local products such as poultry and dairy products and some kinds of

vegetables are 45 per cent of the local requirements. He commented that this figure has encouraged the union to go ahead in order to enable the agricultural sector to achieve its objectives through the country's comprehensive development plan.

But he acknowledged that the difficult climatic conditions in the country and the scarcity of arable lands had underestimated the importance of field agriculture and led eventually to the adoption of greenhouse methods which are relatively costly.

But, however, these methods were sufficient to realise the required percentage towards the country's national security, Al Noun commented.

He added that needless to say animal husbandry was easier in Kuwait and animals were more immune to climatic volatility. He pointed out that the objective evaluation of the agricultural sector in Kuwait calls for paying more attention to animal husbandry, as there is at the moment about 400 animal raisers in the country.

Replying to a question, the official said if the country has to attain a qualitative leap in the livestock field, the necessary concessional loans should be made to animal raisers and the owners of poultry farms. He added that the state should contribute in the setting up of the organisational structure of such a sector by setting up model slaughterhouses and meat canning plants.

Apart from the above, the official has called for help from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to conduct research that may help enhance the output of animal husbandry in addition to the provision of the necessary veterinary services to be extended to animal raisers and poultry farms owners and the provision of marketing venues as well.

Meanwhile, the official has disclosed that the Livestock Co-operative Society had set up about 31 branches throughout the country for the distribution of fresh meat at co-operative prices taking into account the cost of local output.

Motorway networks supervised adequately

THE steady increase in the number of private vehicles have caused an increase in traffic pressure and the ideal way to resolve the traffic problems is to adopt group transportation.

Making these statements, director of the Traffic Research Department at Kuwait Municipality, engineer Redhe Homood Al Matrouk stated that current improvements of traffic roads in the country are being adequately supervised and any inconvenience due to alterations is of a short and temporary nature.

Matrouk summarised the duties assigned to the department as it plays a role in applying structural plans for residential areas in the country. He said that such plans are aimed at achieving balance in real estate applications in order to distribute traffic flow in a way to avoid jams. He stressed that one department research placed more emphasis on getting maximum benefit out of public transportation facilities.

He explained that the central control of traffic lights and express roads in addition to vehicles parking lots projects are the main projects at the department.

Study He stated that Kuwait Municipality conducts constant studies in co-operation with concerned authorities regarding transportation movements among residential areas particularly the centre of Kuwait City. He pointed out that future indicators show that Kuwait City will require 40 per cent restriction in transportation in the future by replacing private vehicles by group transportation.

Matrouk said that the traffic network for the city centre is not finished yet as there are still construction works underway at the intersection of Istiqlal Street with the First Ring Road and Sour Street. He pointed out that the only section of the express roads leading to the city which is completed is the intersection of Riyadh Street with the First Ring Road. He expected good improvement in traffic flow leading to Kuwait City as soon as the rest of the projects are completed.

Project talks

KUWAIT, May 27, (Kuna): Director General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Badr Mishari Al Houtamidi today received visiting Rwanda's foreign minister.

Talks focused on some projects in that African country that are under study in the fund.

Policemen honoured

The Police Academy held yesterday's function to honour its outstanding students who topped the first, second and third years of the academy. Director-General of the Academy, Brig. Khalid Al Munayes attended the function and gave away prizes to outstanding students. A number of high ranking academy officers also attended.

Picture shows Munayes with the students.

Telephone directory

THE Ministry of Communications has distributed copies of its new telephone directory, which is newly designed and indexed to facilitate usage by subscribers.

According to a ministry official, the new telephone book has been produced in the pattern of "yellow pages" used around the world, and has so far been in great demand among subscribers which is expected to ease off pressure on the 101-information service.

Diploma warning

KUWAIT, May 27, (Kuna): People with fake diplomas will face legal action if discovered by the higher education ministry, an authorised source at the ministry said Saturday.

The source told Kuna that the ministry will take stiff measures to put an end to this problem, particular when there was not enough actions taken in such cases in the past.

GCC meeting

RIYADH, May 27, (Kuna): A technical committee, comprising planning undersecretaries of member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council began its third meeting here today.

They will review several issues including preparation of a unified directory for concepts and terminologies of planning as well as the administrative and legislative procedures in the planning field in the members states, an official source said.

Free unloading system praised

Bank guarantee scrapped

THE director of supermarkets department at the Kuwait Municipality Mohammed Al Mishan has praised the recent decision of free unloading system at the central vegetables and fruits market in Shuwaikh area that will start from the beginning of next month. He added that new system aims at offering chances to all merchants, who will be allowed to occupy stalls for three days and then shift to other stalls.

The system will put an end to the monopoly of some merchants who occupy certain stalls at the market. The system will give merchants the chance to circulate their imports. This will also increase the imports of vegetables and fruits and reduce prices.

The merchants will compete with each other in quality and prices for the favour of consumers. The system was decided after several months of study by the municipal affairs committee. The system was also referred to the Council of Ministers and approved after four months last April, he said.

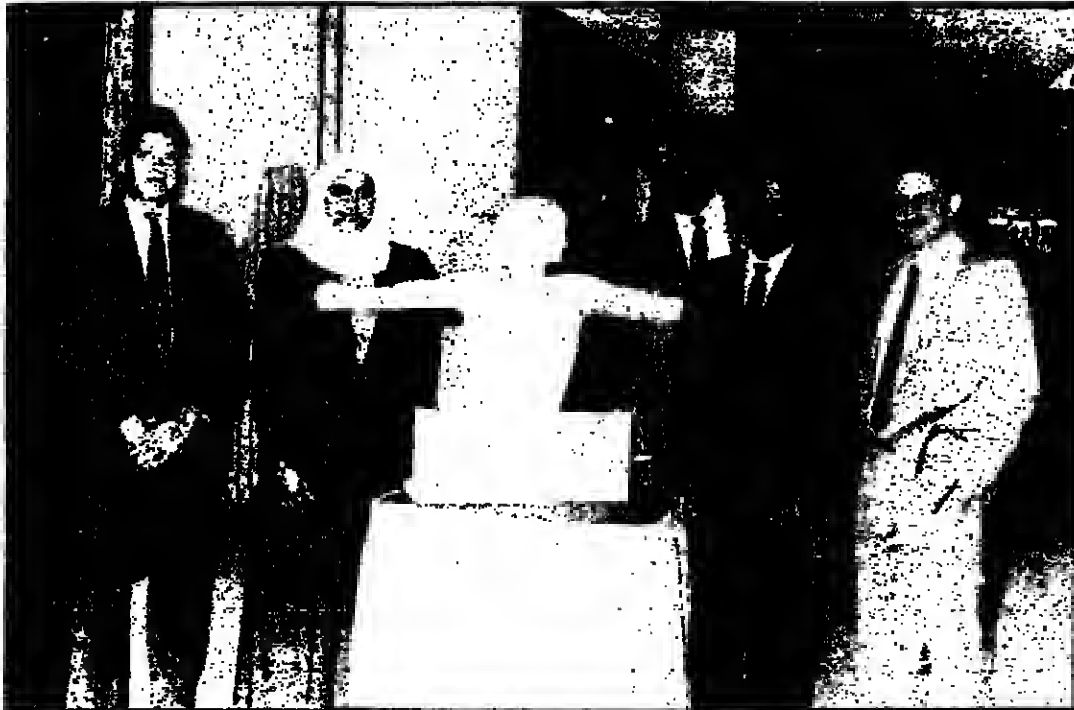
Al Mishan pointed out that system will exempt importers and merchants from paying the bank guarantee of KD 10,000 that they are paying at the present time. Merchants will get one or more stalls at the market according to their imports against symbolic prices and conditions (500 fils per each imported ton of vegetables or fruits). He added that stalls will be distributed to merchants under supervision of a four-member committee from the municipality and the ministry of commerce as well as merchants.

Al Mishan added that the new system obliged merchants to make legal residence permits for their workers under their sponsorship. He added that the system will provide a good opportunity for consumers to select best quality of vegetables and best prices.

Each kind of vegetable or fruit will be displayed in separate stalls which means more co-ordination and organisation. The trailers will unload their goods at midnight till 6am when market is closed.

The consumers will not notice crowding caused by unloading workers during shopping. He added that all buildings at the market will be subjected to this system. The municipality will maintain building No. 3 at the market and provide it with required utilities. He added that municipality will build similar supermarkets for vegetables in every governorate. Tenders for these projects will be published in July, he added.

jeopardy while still in their wombs. He stressed that smoking in Africa and Asia is wide spread among teenagers, and that girls who smoke are steadily increasing in numbers as recorded in the post WWII era, adding that even after the implementation of anti-smoking campaigns, girls smokers are found to be slower in breaking their habit compared with male smokers.



Organon seminar

Organon, the pharmaceutical division of AKZO recently held a seminar on 'Depression and its treatment' at the Kuwait International Hotel. Approximately 35 psychiatrists, the country's very best in this field, attended the seminar where Dr A. Jawad from Organon Middle East Ltd (Cyprus) was the special guest.

Dr Jawad gave the audience a historic overview of drug therapy used in depression, emphasising the safety of these so-called anti-depressants especially in cases of overdose. Since the majority of depressed patients have thoughts of suicidal action

during the acute phase, Dr Jawad stated, the need for safe anti-depressants becomes apparent. The meeting therefore concluded that... 'the newer anti-depressant drugs should be the first line of therapy for all depressed patients who are treated at home since older generation anti-depressants—when used in excess doses are highly toxic.'

The local agent for Organon is Al Moji Drug Company and the Gulf region is looked after by S. Aziz Akhter from Dubai. Pictures shows AKZO executives during the seminar.

Special summer clubs for students

ABDULMOHSEN AL-SAEED, the assistant undersecretary for information and students affairs at the Ministry of Education was quoted as saying that the development committee has recommended the setting up of specialised summer clubs for secondary stage Kuwaiti students.

In a press interview, the official said that the committee has empowered the Schools Activities Department at the ministry to prepare its conceptions for two specialised clubs to be devoted to the setting up of the necessary programmes for secondary students during the summer vacation.

Speaking of the joint study over the summer clubs, the official said that a study had been finalised and the pertinent recommendations were being referred to the authorities concerned. Recommendations, the official said focused on the types of activities during the summer vacation such as swimming, handicraft activities, recreational trips, the exchange of visits with summer clubs, the organisation of competitions among youth centres and the co-ordination among some scientific institutions and clubs for arranging the necessary training courses for summer clubs members.

By Nash'at Al Aghe

DR HUSSAIN AL MOMEN has told Seyassah that Kuwait Anti-Smoking Society has prepared a full programme for anti-smoking education to be implemented during the International Anti-Smoking Day on May 31, which will be celebrated under the title 'Non-smoking Children and Youth.'

He said that leaflets will be

distributed as part of the programme highlighting the parental and social responsibility for children who smoke because they fail to find a good non-smoking example to follow.

The leaflets also stress important facts such as the great harm sustained by non-smokers, children and others, who inhale tobacco-polluted air, and urge youths to quit smoking which is

responsible for 90 per cent cancer and 80 per cent of bronchitis.

The educational campaign also lights the harmful effects of tobacco promoting adverts which fill publications and newspapers and public places.

He said that tobacco-smoking threatens the lives of 2.5 million people each year and that in countries where smoking is common 20 per cent to 25 per cent of heart, arteries and brain stroke

cases are caused by smoking, and that children are highly endangered by smokers around them.

He pointed out that some research centres have said that 150 million children will be exposed to death from smoking related diseases, if the tobacco consumption rates persist as they are now.

He added that the centres also said that unborn babies to smoking mothers are also in great

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THREE may keep a secret, if two of them are dead — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

United Germany in Nato
Gorby remarks
compromising

MOSCOW. (Reuter): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is talking tough about keeping a united Germany out of Nato but his latest remarks also contain the elements of a compromise.

During a visit by French President Francois Mitterrand on Friday, Gorbachev, in remarks to reporters, came out fiercely against full Nato membership for a united Germany. He said this would upset the delicate balance of power in Europe.

But he implied that if the West revised its strategy and if the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) acquired structures to head off emergencies in Europe, his "noyet" to a Nato Germany might not be so emphatic.

Suggested

He suggested at one point that a united Germany could, like France, be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's political organisation but not of its military command.

West German officials reacted sceptically on Saturday to this idea, saying that Bonn would study it carefully but that the concept was unlikely to find much favour in West Germany.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the CSCE process, launched in Helsinki in 1975, might be the fig leaf behind which Moscow could hide its embarrassment over losing its ally East Germany.

"In Eastern Europe the old structures, such as the Warsaw Pact (Soviet-led military alliance), are falling apart, said a senior Western diplomat who has worked on the German issue.

"But Gorbachev must want to do something to keep these countries in a security framework before events run away from him. There could be clashes between the two superpowers.

"If we give the CSCE process a new weight, with structures to prevent crises, it could be the way to provide a new stability in Europe and address this Soviet concern.

Ideal

He said the idea of boosting the CSCE was being discussed in the whirlwind of diplomatic consultations between presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from Washington, Bonn, Paris, Moscow, London and East Berlin.

Gorbachev, who gave a joint news conference with Mitterrand, said that if the West continued to insist on Germany being part of Nato, Moscow would have to reconsider its overall stance on European disarmament and co-operation.

But then he appeared to suggest that these same processes could be used to solve the problem of Germany's military role.

"I am raising these questions in such sharp terms not to try to scare all of you... I am saying all this for one purpose. We must hold together, bearing in mind the interests of the Germans, the Europeans and the entire world community.

"We must find the right solutions that would not weaken the positive processes in international relations on the European continent but on the contrary would reinforce them.

"Here the (French) president and I devoted a lot of time to ways to synchronise the establishment of European security arrangements," Gorbachev said. He said this included creating organisations to "prevent emergency situations."

"I asked him (Mitterrand) why a unified Germany cannot be in a situation like France, which is a member of the political organisation of Nato but not of its military organisation. It is also an option," he said.

Revise

Gorbachev suggested that Nato should revise its strategy to a defensive instead of offensive one. He said the Warsaw Pact had already done this.

He reminded his audience that Moscow, which is fighting a united Western front and the Germans themselves on the Nato issue, still had one trump card — its rights as one of the four Allied powers which defeated Nazi Germany in World War II.

"On the basis of those international legal acts the Soviets Union will remain where it is now, with its group of forces," he said, referring to 380,000 Soviet troops based in East Germany.

As one of the victorious four — the others were France, the United States, and Britain — Moscow is participating in "Two plus four" talks on German unity with East and West Germany. It is the only participant which opposes German membership in Nato.

A Soviet journalist who writes on European security issues and has frequent access to high officials said Moscow could soften its position on keeping Germany out of Nato "if there is a Nato acceptable for us, with a revised strategy."

"But the key to German unity is building a centre for prevention of conflicts in Europe," he said.

This meant there must be a transition period in which these conditions could be met and Gorbachev could sell the idea to conservatives at home, many of whom, like Politburo member Yegor Ligachev, were furious about the prospect of German unity in Nato.

"There is no better way to get rid of Gorbachev now than for the West to push too hard on the Nato issue," the journalist said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1533 — England's archbishop Cranmer pronounces Anne Boleyn's marriage to King Henry VIII valid.

1568 — Duke of Alba confiscates properties of William of Orange and other nobles opposing Spanish rule in the Netherlands.

1674 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I declares war on France.

1741 — Treaty is signed between Spain and Bavaria to partition Hapsburg lands.

1812 — Russia, by treaty of Bucharest with Turkey, obtains Bessarabia and withdraws demand for Moldavia and Wallachia, and peace enables Tsar to act against Napoleon Bonaparte.

1864 — Austria-Hungary's Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian lands in Vera Cruz, Mexico, to become emperor.

1919 — Armenia declares its independence.

1940 — Belgium capitulates to Germany in World War II — British and French troops begin evacuation from Dunkerque, France.

1961 — Paris-Bucharest Orient Express train makes final trip after 78 years.

1971 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft toward planet Mars.

1974 — Coalition government in Northern Ireland collapses as economy is crippled by extremist Protestant group strikes.

1976 — United States and Soviet Union sign treaty limiting size of underground nuclear explosions set off for peaceful purposes.

1979 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat announces opening of air corridors between Egypt and Israel.

1984 — Iran's President Ali Khamenei warns Arabs states in Gulf area to stay out of Iraq's conflict with Iran or "bear the consequences."

1986 — The world's two most experienced Soviet spacemen take a nearly four-hour walk from their Salyut-7 orbiting station.

1987 — Senior law enforcement officials from nine nations gather in Paris to explore expansion of international co-operation against terrorists.

1988 — Yugoslav government introduces new austerity programme that includes devaluation of dinar and massive price increases.

Kashmir: bone of contention

There is solution without war

Pakistan and India have gone to war twice over Kashmir. The same issue has again taken an ugly twist and both these countries seem to be on the brink of yet another war. India has accused Pakistan of fomenting the trouble but the latter denies any involvement. Khaled Al Macena, a prominent Saudi journalist, in a special article to the Arab Times, looks at the brutal truth behind the uprising in Kashmir.

the Mukti Bahini prior to the war of 1971. India armed the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka. By supporting the Kashmiris, Pakistan may feel it is paying India back with the same coin. In fact, support of the Kashmiris is not thought of as a violation of international law provided such acts are done within Kashmiri territory. The United States, for example, supported many movements within and outside national borders. Here Najma Heptullah should have curtailed her tirade against Pakistan. In her eagerness to prove her loyalty which I don't doubt, she has accused Pakistan of fomenting trouble but she failed to realise that Pakistan has nothing to do with the Kashmiris.

The Indian government's decision to appoint Jagmohan as governor of Kashmir has backfired and he has by now become a hated symbol of repression.

To make matters worse, political leader of various shades and opinions have joined the fray and the Kashmir debate now strains under a war psychosis with V.P. Singh, an honorable man by all accounts, giving his two cents worth. Accusations and counter accusations are cross-fired over the border as Pakistan is proclaimed the arch-villain since it is deemed to be the main supporter of the uprising by the Kashmiris. Fingers were even pointed at some other countries. The whole issue has been marred, the facts of the issue drowned in words like "destroy" and "force them to their knees" or "capitulate."

The Kashmir uprising has then been given an ugly twist and communalized by spreading fear and insecurity among non-Muslim Kashmiris and giving them bleak encouragement to leave their homes and flee the state.

Four Indian human rights organizations namely, the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), the Citizens for Democracy, the Radical Humanist Association and the Manav Ekta Abhiyan appointed an eight member team including retired Justice Tunkunde and Justice Sachar to make an assessment of the situation in Indian-held Kashmir. The group visited Kashmir in March and April 1990 and met a cross-section of people.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the group contained in its report are summarized below:

1) There are no overt threats held out to the minorities from local Muslims. In quite a few cases the Kashmiri pandits, going out of the valley, have left their house keys with their Muslim neighbours.

2) According to one view, those who were leaving the valley had either over-reacted to the situation or had other reasons such as winter, life under curfew and the closure of banks, schools, post offices etc.

3) The Muslims of Kashmir genuinely want the Kashmiri pandits to return to the valley. There has not been a single case of looting or arson of non-Muslim property.

4) According to reports, certain interested elements were propagating that all those non-Muslims who migrate out of the valley to Jammu or elsewhere would be given free plots, cash

and other facilities. There was thus a deliberate attempt to communalize the situation by setting up relief camps outside the valley.

5) While non-Muslim officials in relief camps were getting their salaries, Muslim employees who were in the valley and could not attend their duties because of curfew were not receiving any payments. Similarly compensation has been paid to the families of non-Muslims victims of the militants but not to the families of Muslim victims.

In this respect, checks have been made by a congressional committee into the allegation of the "foreign inspired" uprising and the findings have revealed that it was not inspired by Pakistan but is itself an indigenous Kashmiri movement. This in fact was revealed to me by Ayyub Thukar, a Kashmiri nationalist who was imprisoned by the Indian authorities and subsequently escaped to espouse the Kashmiri cause.

"India," he said, "has tried to confuse the issue and make people believe that is a border dispute between India and Pakistan. It is not. It is an international problem, dating back to 1948 and the UN resolutions concerning Kashmir are still alive on the file."

Another confusion that India has tried to disseminate particularly in the Arab and Muslim states is that by helping the Kashmiris problems will be created for Indian Muslims. The Indian Muslims are separate; Kashmir is an international problem to be solved under the auspices of the United Nations.

I had to do some research to verify the statement of Thukar and to my surprise not only are his claims on the file but India's stand in Kashmir rests in black and white and their authenticity is undeniable. In this connection India's commitment of a plebiscite of the people of Kashmir is quite clear.

1. "Our view which we have repeatedly made public is that the question of accession in any disputed territory or state must be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people and we adhere to this view."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (in telegram No. 402 Primin-227 dated 27 October 1947 to the Prime Minister of Pakistan repeating the telegram addressed to the Prime Minister of Great Britain).

2. "...the people of Kashmir would decide the question of accession. It is open to them to accede to either Dominion then." — Jawaharlal Nehru (in telegram No. 225 dated 31st October 1947 addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan).

3. "We have not opposed at any time an overall plebiscite for the State as a whole."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (in a telegram dated August 16, 1950 addressed to the UN representative for India and Pakistan).

4. "But so far as the government of India is concerned, international commitment in regard to Kashmir stands."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (statement in the Indian Council of States: May 18 1964)

5. "People seem to forget that Kashmir is not a commodity for sale or to be bartered. It has an individual existence and its people must be the final arbiters of

their future."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (report to the All-India Congress Committee, 6 July 1951; The Statesman, New Delhi July 9, 1951).

6. Kashmir is not a thing to be bandied about between India and Pakistan but it has a soul of its own and an individuality of its own. Nothing can be done without the goodwill and consent of the people of Kashmir.

— Jawaharlal Nehru (Statement in the Indian Parliament, March 31, 1955).

7. "We have given our pledge to the people of Kashmir, and subsequently to the United Nations: we stood by it and we stand by it today. Let the people of Kashmir decide."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (statement in the Indian Parliament, February 12, 1951).

8. "If, after a proper plebiscite, the people of Kashmir said, 'We do not want to be with India,' we are committed to accept that. We will accept it, though it might hurt us. We will not send any army against them. We will accept that, however, hurt we might feel about it, we will change the constitution if necessary."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (statement in the Indian Parliament, June 26 1952).

9. I want to stress that it is only the people of Kashmir who can decide the future of Kashmir. It is not that we have merely said that to the United Nations and to the people of Kashmir; it is our conviction and one that is borne out by the policy that we have pursued, not only in Kashmir but everywhere."

"I started with the assumption that it is for the people of Kashmir to decide their own future. We will not compel them. In that sense, the people of Kashmir are sovereign."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (statement in the Indian Parliament August 7, 1952).

So after all these years, after open admission by the Indian government of election rigging and political chicanery in the state of Kashmir, to deny people their basic right of self-determination would be to negate all the principles to which India adheres and are inscribed in its Constitution.

Instead, therefore, of pointing an accusing finger at Pakistan and engaging in a war of hysteria which might trigger a no-return situation and once again pit the Phantoms against the MiGs, a drastic imperative is needed. The war psychosis generated by certain extremists should also be made clear to those who advocate war that there will be no long term gain, except an increase in the misery and agony of the already large segment of the populace which lives in sub-human conditions steeped in superstition and ignorance.

For Pakistan too, the war would be disastrous and will set it back at least a decade. A nation with three million refugees can hardly afford a war. A nation that has yet to eliminate the word "Mohajir" cannot afford a war. A nation that has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world could do much better for its people than to go to war. There is no glory in a war that does not have to happen.

It is therefore of paramount importance that the government of Delhi be bold enough to tackle

the issue squarely and not to be hedged in or give in to certain factious elements for short term political popularity. Electoral ballot papers must not be marked with the blood of Kashmiris.

The recent well-publicized meeting of the Indian Foreign Minister Gujral with his Pakistani counterpart Yakub Khan has apparently failed to produce any result. The basis for any talks have yet to be put forward although diplomats at the United Nations say that talks can be held also within the framework of the Simla agreement of July 2, 1972, which did not alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory.

Para 6 of the agreement lists "a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir" as one of the outstanding questions awaiting a settlement.

Para 4(f) talks of a "Line of Control" as distinguished from an international border. Furthermore, it explicitly protects "the recognized position of either side." The recognized position of Pakistan is the one which is recognized by the United Nations and the world community in general.

Article 1 (iv) obviously refers to the Kashmir issue when it talks of "the basic issues and causes of conflict which have bedeviled the relations between the two countries for the last twenty-five years."

The Kashmir crisis must not be allowed to escalate and the only way this can be prevented is to allow a plebiscite. It is widely believed today that if this most logical step were implemented, it would see the majority of Kashmiris opting for an independent state maintaining good relations with India and Pakistan. Why is India so petrified of a plebiscite?

And while on the subject of Kashmir and its relations with Pakistan, another issue comes to mind; that of the Indian Muslims.

The enmity towards the Indian Muslim is a result of the pre-conceived theory that Muslims were responsible for the break-up of India which resulted in bloody massacres and thousands of Muslims and Hindus losing their lives and property in a war of untold suffering. But a new study of the Partition of 1947 by the noted Indian scholar H. Seervai, states, contrary to previously published opinions, that "the unity of India was not sabotaged by Muhammad Ali Jinnah but by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister who constantly miscalculated by refusing to take Jinnah seriously. At one stage Jinnah would have gladly kept India whole as long as Muslim rights were recognized."

I may have digressed but I believe it is worth pointing out that the Indian Muslim is categorically not to blame for what the Kashmiris are doing or for what Pakistan does. The media should not give space to those who slander and defame them. Tipu Sultan should not be considered a villain, as he has been described. He is as much a villain as Subhas Chandra Bose.

It is indeed heartening to know that many in India see war as a morally devoid solution to the problem. Some have even asked for negotiations with the Kashmiris. A leader of the BJP admitted to our correspondent that Kashmir should have been given to Pakistan right from the outset. The whole problem emanates from Nehru's obsession with power, an obsession that his daughter inherited.

Others have blamed the Kakistocracy that rules India in failing to realize its folly in dealing with Kashmir stating that Rajasthan and Gujarat border Pakistan and have no problems. It is a good sign.

Political analysts said they expected Mitterrand to define France's position during an official visit to Madagascar early next month at a Franco-Africa summit a few days later.

Some commentators say a policy review is overdue.

"Many African leaders have over-estimated how much they can depend on the French and some have used these defence ties as a life insurance," said Pierre Haski, diplomatic correspondent of the Paris daily newspaper Liberation.

A senior French presidential aide would not comment on a review of defence accords with Africa but said these were made with states and were "not signed to protect particular regimes."

Western diplomats said France had no choice but to act cautiously in Africa, after Paris had shown great enthusiasm for democratic changes in East Europe.

"France feels the situation is changing now with the demand for multi-party rule in Africa," a Western diplomat said.

"Unless their citizens are threatened they are not likely to send in their troops as they did in Gabon or Congo," he added.

France has no intention of intervening for the time being. Co-operation Minister Jean-Pierre Pelletier said.

The response contrasted starkly with France's past actions.

In the first of numerous interventions in Africa even after its colonies gained independence, France attempted in 1963 to prop up Congolese president Fulbert Youlou's rule.

In a dramatic mission a year later, French paratroopers put down a military revolt against Gabonese president Leon M'ba.

A particularly spectacular mission was launched in 1978 when former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing sent paratroopers to help to put down a secessionist rebellion in southern Zaïre.

Even in 1986, Togo's President Gnassingbe Eyadema had only to make a call to Paris and within hours some 250 soldiers were on their way from French bases in nearby states to help repel an invasion bid.

The Togo expedition was France's 14th in Africa since the early 1960s. The invoked pact was similar to agreements linking France and at least six of its other former African colonies and making it the only European power with military bases in Africa.

France still has over 5,000 troops and scores of aircraft in Djibouti, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Central African Republic and Chad.

"I had thought that France was going to intervene in Ivory Coast but I was wrong," said veteran French African expert Philippe Decraene.

Decraene said President Francois Mitterrand was re-evaluating France's accord with Africa in view of the strong pro-democracy movements sweeping its former colonies there.

"Given the seriousness of past events and those to come, the president cannot avoid taking a stand on whether the French government will stay loyal to the policy it has pursued up to now or if it intends to modify it," Decraene told Reuters.

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Journalists visit Mercedes-Benz plants in West Germany

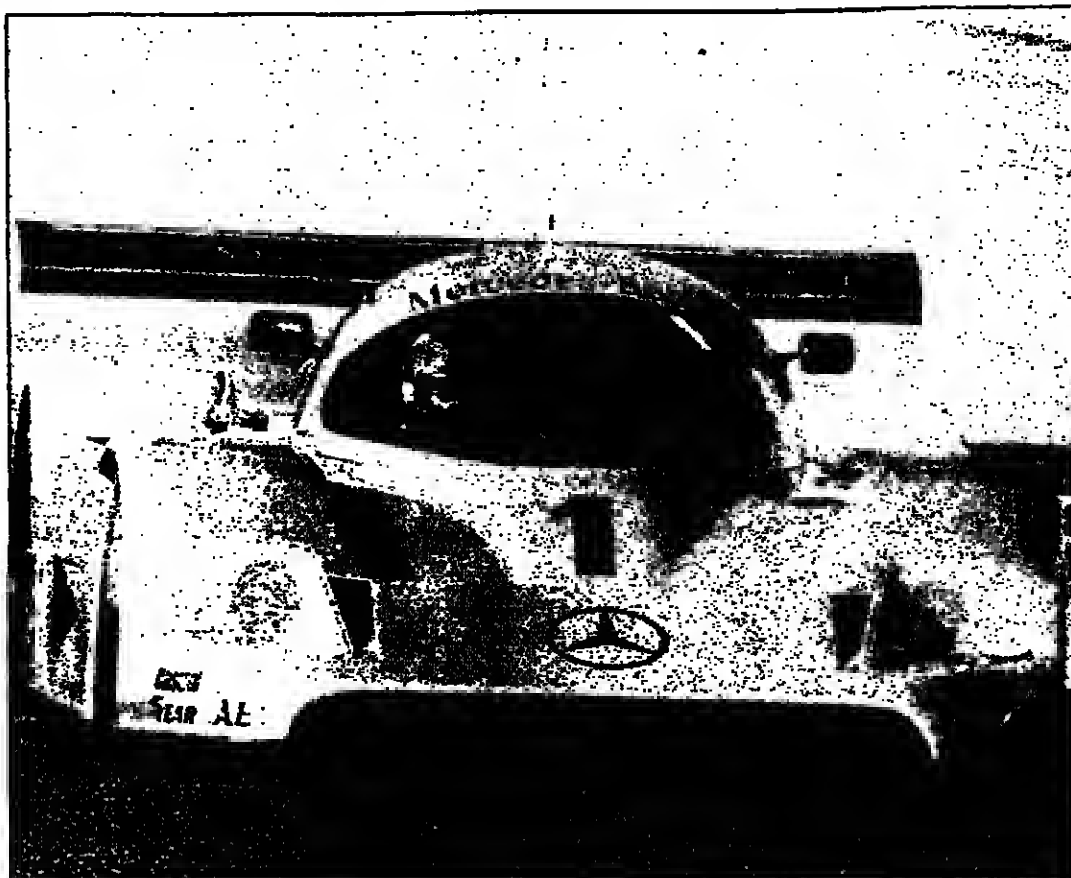
IN compliance with an invitation extended to the local press from Mercedes-Benz AG, and in co-operation with their local agents, M/s A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazeem Co., a delegation from the local journalists along with other journalist delegation from Arabian Gulf countries, Syria and Jordan, paid a visit to the production and test premises of Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

The journalist delegation was warmly welcomed and received by the officials of the company who are responsible for the Gulf markets. The delegations viewed the complete stages of production and testing the vehicles in the plants of the company in Bremen and Stuttgart.

The delegation was informed that Mercedes-Benz AG, which is a branch of Daimler-Benz AG group became, since July 1989, responsible for producing all kinds of types of vehicles which carry the emblem of the three pointed star, with a turnover of DM 56 billion. The company employs 170 thousand people distributed between eleven plants and 39 companies and therefore it is the second biggest establishment in automobile production in Germany.

In order to maintain the tradition of the company since more than hundred years, Mercedes-Benz AG, invests a huge amount of money in the field of scientific research and studies for developing their products continuously to suit their leading position in the field of production and sales.

Mayerhoeffer, the export director for the Gulf area emphasized that the safety and security programme has particular attention and care of the experts, engineers and the technicians of Mercedes-Benz AG, and at the same time, the company spared no efforts in employing the latest technology in their production which depends upon testing and



The advanced race car type C11 which won various prizes in the international races.

inspecting all the parts of the vehicles.

A true example for employing the latest technology is using the "simulator" which was used in the field of tests from 1985. This system is the sole system used only by Mercedes-Benz AG, where it can test the parts of the vehicle, the behaviour of the driver when faced with a critical situation during driving, in addition to that this developed system also tests the roads and their safety which leads some countries to consult Mercedes-Benz regarding the roads and bridges which will be constructed and to be sure about their safety and

design.

Besides this, the company employs the ABS, ADS and ARS systems, which are considered the most significant inventions of the latest technology regarding providing the safety and security in Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

In this regard, the company is carrying out detailed studies about the accidents which Mercedes-Benz vehicles are involved in, where the company sends experts, engineers and technicians to the place of the accident if the place is far about 50 km from the premises of the companies plant in order to make use of such studies in developing the safety and

security to their products.

The delegation was briefed about the intensive training courses given to the employees.

The delegation paid a visit to the proud products of the company which is the production of the new sports car series "SL" class (300 SL and 500 SL) where the company employed the latest technology and invention machines and test, so the car will pass 40 test stages on computer to determine the minimum deviations and at the end it will be subject to manual check-up where the quality is the guarantee of quality.

There are other new products which the company is proud of



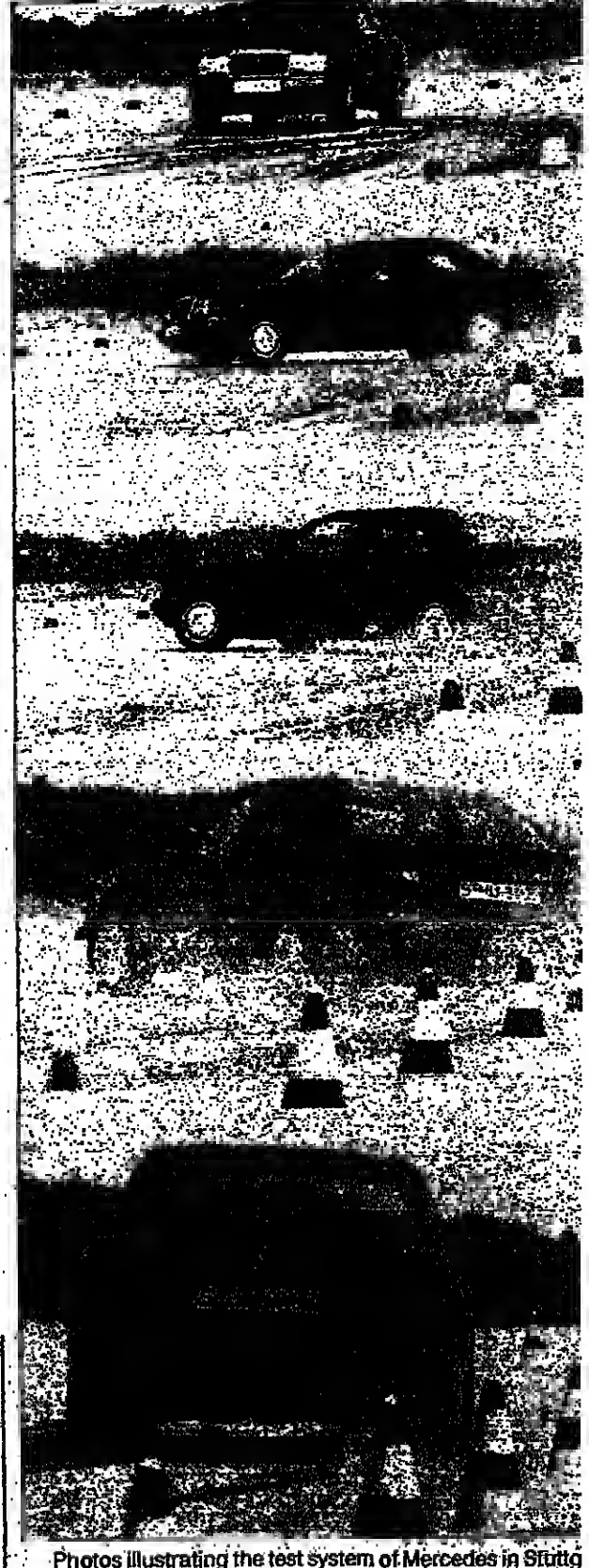
The simulator

which the new heavy duty vehicles type (SK and MK). These vehicles were voted the best heavy duty vehicles for 1990 by a jury of international monitoring journalists. These examples are a true evidence to the quality of the expected vehicles by Mercedes-Benz AG.

The delegation also paid a visit to the branch of the company in West Berlin where they confirmed on the significance of the customer, how to deal with him, and the advantages of after-sales services which is a policy adopted by the company in all of their sales premises as well as the accredited distributors in order to ensure best comfort to the cus-

tomers. As much as Mercedes-Benz emphasized on the safety features for both the car and driver, it also emphasizes as well, on the society safety where as Dr. Ohlander, manager of the engine development department said that his department is continuously studying and researching to develop and improve the emission system in the engines to help control the pollution in the atmosphere.

Last but not least, the company achieved a considerable progress in the field of producing racing cars type C11 where its team won the first position in the international races.



Photos illustrating the test system of Mercedes in Stuttgart

Foreign debt jumps

Economy mismanaged to benefit rich: minister

KATHMANDU, May 27, (Reuters) Nepal's economy for years has encouraged corruption, made smuggling a key revenue, rewarded the rich and left the country one of the poorest in the world, according to a report by Finance Minister Deyendra Prasad Koirala.

Previous governments under an absolute monarchy deprived people of their basic human rights, but distorted the making Nepal one of the poorest countries in the world, he said in a report issued over the weekend.

A new interim coalition government of former banned parties took power in Nepal five weeks ago after bloody protests in the Kathmandu valley.

The new government wants to hold elections within a year, King Birendra from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy.

Political parties were banned by King Birendra's father I. governments answerable only to the monarch ruled until movement restored multi-party democracy in the world's kingdom.

"People are suffering from the distortions caused by black marketeering, extracting commissions and corruption said in a blistering attack on the ousted 'panchayat' council government's management of the economy."

Nearly half the population has an income of 30 US cents, foreign debt has tripled in the last five years, he said in a 38-page report.

"Only 12 to 13 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1980 the same year as KPC was established by the Amini decree."

Incomes of such people do not exceed nine rupees (30 cents) a day.

Foreign debt has risen to 33.69 billion rupees (\$1.16 billion) April 1990 from 10.33 billion in 1986.

Agricultural production had stagnated and economic growth built on flourishing import businesses.

Israeli firms can now invest abroad

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27, (Reuters) Israeli companies are permitted to invest up to 20 per cent of shareholders' capital and form strategic partnership with foreign firms, the Knesset announced today.

In a move designed to liberalize Israel's tightly controlled market, the Bank of Israel will relax restrictions to allow strengthen their foreign trade ties.

Until now firms were not allowed to invest abroad except for foreign currency.

"New directives will permit any investment abroad, except for financial investments. They are necessary for Israel involvement in the economic unification of Europe in 1992," Bank officials said.

The directives also allow firms to reinvest in their foreign up to 50 per cent of profits made abroad and to form partnerships taking minority stakes in a joint venture.

"Foreign currency controls will not be abolished, but they will be liberalized," the central bank official said.



Goodbye to Harish

HARISH DHUTIA (above) came to Kuwait 17 years ago and started working for M/s Yusuf Alghanim Co. in the Personnel and Manpower Planning Department. He worked there about 4 years and later joined Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) in 1977 in the Job Evaluation Division of the Personnel Dept. He was transferred and promoted to the position of superintendent Job Evaluation Division in Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in 1980 the same year as KPC was established by the Amini decree.

He was one of the pioneer employees in KPC, who established various assignments in personnel department including job evaluation, salary administration and manpower.

He was transferred to Petroleum Training Centre in Ahmadi in the year 1983 as superintendent planning division to establish planning and information divisions of the Training Affairs Group. He is one of the few Indians who acquired the highest position of the division head assigned to non-Kuwaitis.

During the tenure of his 13 years service with KNPC, KPC, he was given many financial rewards for his outstanding job performance.

Apart from his official duty, Harish was also very active in the social and cultural activities. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Indian School. He held responsible positions in the various cultural associations from time to time.

He was an executive member, and held the position of joint secretary and convenor of the functions organising committee of the NRI Investors Forum in Kuwait.

He is leaving Kuwait for family reasons and planning to start his own business in Bombay, India.

He would like to thank all the people and Kuwait where he indeed prospered.

Goodbye to Harish.

Fresh bid to strengthen economic ties

EEC and Japan ministers to meet

TOKYO, May 27, (Reuters) Japan and the European Economic Community hold a ministerial meeting in Brussels on Tuesday for the first time in three and a half years, with the occasion as important as the substance.

"We attach crucial importance to the meeting," said a statement issued by the EEC office in Tokyo. "It should constitute a landmark with regard to strengthening Japan-EEC relations politically and economically."

"The meeting has more formal importance than the subjects to be discussed," a spokesman for the office said.

For both sides, it is an opportunity to strengthen the weakest link in the new triangle of global economic power — United States, Japan and EEC.

While Washington and Tokyo are bound by a military and political alliance as well as increasing economic interdependence,

Japan-EEC relations have lagged.

With the prospect of a single market in 1992, Japanese investment has recently poured into the community. European investment in Japan trails far behind, and EEC countries run a large, though diminishing, trade deficit.

The first of what were billed as annual Japan-EEC ministerial meetings was held in 1984. Since 1986, however, last-minute rescheduling by Japanese ministers has prevented the two sides getting together.

Japan will be represented in Brussels by Kibun Muto, Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI). Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and, if parliamentary business permits, by the head of the economic planning agency.

Japan would raise three issues at the meeting for which EEC cooperation would be invited, a MITI official said.

One is a 100-year plan to regenerate the global environment. The second is the Intelligent Manufacturing System (IMS) aimed at improving manufacturing.

"We do not want to create a discrepancy in production technology between the three regions," the official said.

Third is improving investment flows between Japan and the EEC.

"The quality of Japanese investment into the EEC is improving, with higher technology being introduced and not just screwdriver plants," the MITI official said. The government wants to increase EEC investment in Japan, he said.

MITI figures show Japanese investment in the EEC at the end of March last year was \$30.164 billion, against \$3.013 billion for EEC investment in Japan.

Because much Japanese investment was in the financial sector while nearly all EEC investment

was in manufacturing, the imbalance in manufacturing was only 1.6 to one, the official said.

The EEC side is unhappy with this imbalance in investment as well as trade. Japanese figures show exports in the year ending in March at \$48.5 billion, up 1.5 per cent on a year earlier, and imports at \$29.3 billion, up 15 per cent.

"Trade relations remain basically unsatisfactory," the EEC statement said. "Europe is still confronted with a lack of real opportunities for market access."

It called for wider opening of the Japanese market for agricultural products and processed food, for services such as lawyers, insurance and banking and for investments in general.

One group led by Britain and West Germany favour market liberalisation, while France, Italy and Spain want a transition during which Japanese imports will be controlled.

US stock rally hurt by worries, sluggish earnings

NEW YORK, May 27, (Reuters) A strong May rally pushed US stock prices to all-time highs last week, but the market fell at the end of the week as few problems cropped up like weeds in a prize-winning garden.

For the week, the Dow Jones Industrials rose 1.01 points, to 2,820.92, with Friday's 34.63-point fall wiping out most of the previous days' gains. The slight weekly rise, however, did extend a rally that has lifted the 30-share average 152 points since the start of May.

The rally pushed the Dow to six record closes over the past two weeks, but all the while analysts were wondering if things are really that good.

"There's some tentativeness here," said Hugh Johnson of First Albany Corp. "We're getting close to being overpriced."

The thorniest issue is the ever-widening savings and loan crisis. Hundreds of the US federally insured lending institutions have

chalked up mammoth losses, mainly due to a sharp real-estate downturn and some fraud and mismanagement, prompting a costly government rescue mission.

The Treasury Department on Wednesday boosted its estimate of the bailout's cost to as much as \$130 billion from the previous guess of \$73 billion. That figure excludes interest payments expected to push the figure up to more than \$300 billion over the next 30 years.

Meanwhile, the slowing economy that produced a much-desired drop in credit market interest rates earlier in the month now appears to be putting a late spring chill on corporate earnings as well.

Shares of Adobe Systems Inc., a once high-flying computer software company, were hammered down 30 per cent on Friday, falling 15-1/4 to 35-1/4, after Adobe said it expected lower earnings.

The announcement sparked a big decline in

stocks generally, with traders believing that if the well-regarded Adobe was having a difficult time, lesser performers will fare even worse in the sluggish economy.

While the stock market has not collapsed at the prospect of a higher savings and loan bailout cost, Johnson said, it is plagued by the prospect of high interest rates linked to the heavy treasury borrowings for the rescue.

"For the past few days the market's realised that this thing's getting bigger and bigger. It's like a toothache that's becoming cancerous," said Frank Cappiello, fund manager for McCullough, Andrews and Cappiello.

Indeed, Cappiello figures a \$300 billion bailout would "eat up the peace dividend" — the term given to defence savings expected from the thawing of East-West relations.

The heavy borrowings make the United States ever more reliant on foreign funds to finance its spending, Johnson said.

Walesa's personal appeal fails, strikers threaten work stoppage

WARSAW, Poland, May 27, (AP) Striking railroad workers threatened a 90-minute nationwide work stoppage on Monday after rejecting a midnight appeal by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to settle their demands.

"It failed. Goodbye," Walesa said as he left the strike headquarters in the city of Slupsk at 3 am today following a three-hour meeting with strikers who had broken off negotiations with the government on Saturday.

Walesa warned that the strikers' actions could lead to civil war and the resignation of Solidarity-backed Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The week-old strike has cut off freight from Poland's Baltic coast and train service across the country's north-

west. Rail traffic from Poland's Baltic coast and train service across the country's north-west. Rail traffic from Poland's industrial south as well as Czechoslovakia and Hungary has been disrupted and the army has been drafted to move essential goods.

The strike also has posed a mounting challenge to Poland's post-communist reformers, who have refused to discuss pay demands they say could scuttle the country's economic "shock" programme as attempt to move quickly from central planning to a market-based system.

Rail workers said they would not intensify the strike on Sunday, during Poland's first fully democratic local elections since before World War II.

But the strike committee called for a nation-wide strike from noon to 1.30 pm. Monday followed by a two-hour cutoff of trains linking the three cities along the Gdansk harbour. The committee also threatened a blockade of freight traffic nationwide at 6 pm Tuesday.

"These actions will be suspended if a competent government delegation arrives to hold talks" in Slupsk, the strikers said in a written statement. "No contacts between the government and the strike committee will mean actualisation of this schedule."

Officials say "thousands" of railroad workers are taking part in the strike but no more precise number has been given. The potential success of a nation-wide

work stoppage cannot be gauged, but transport officials have noted that an even small percentage of Poland's 400,000 rail workers could snarl traffic.

Walesa urged the workers to call off the strike. "Please do it for Poland," he said. "We don't want a civil war now, and what's going on now is leading to it."

Walesa said the strikers have legitimate grievances but are being manipulated by their new champion, the Opozycja created by the communist regime in 1982 after Solidarity was banned.

Opozycja chairman Alfred Miodowicz, a former Communist Party Politburo member, began representing the renegade workers after the government

refused to open negotiations because the wildcat strike was not being conducted by legal unions.

The government subsequently agreed to talks Saturday. But they broke down after Labour Minister Jacek Kuron reiterated his refusal to discuss wage demands. "I am willing to talk with everybody... about everything except wages," he said.

Walesa told the strikers the government cannot concede because "there are others waiting in line for strikes."

The government's concession "would be an indication that if one goes on strike, one gets whatever one wants. The prime minister will resign if protests spread," Walesa said.

Walesa's ambassadorial work on

behalf of the government, helped to create some strained relations with M over the pace of reforms.

"I am not the government I am doing this for... the... that is being built in Poland. The strikers rejected Walesa and the strike based on his guarantee to work for their and press his criticism of the government for 'realising the re-

slowly." He proposed giving the 9 two strike-free weeks to "grievances, backed by his join a strike if no agreement was reached."

Desert blooms

TEN years ago, greenery was rare in Kuwait. Plants and shrubs thrived only in a few select gardens owned by private Kuwaiti citizens. Kuwait was a barren look, except for the green belt in Ahmedi. And the green belt in Kuwait, although known as such, looked deserted.

As the years went by, Kuwait's landscape changed, thanks to the government's policy of greening. A "Green Kuwait" — a dream of Kuwaitis — became a reality after the landscaping projects got into full swing.

Under the supervision of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries, several projects were launched to plant thousands of palm trees and other hardy species that could thrive under inclement weather conditions. Popular varieties included Sidr, date palm and salsal.

The Sultan Gallery, Kuwait, researched the various efforts of successful propagation of plants, trees and flowering bushes in Kuwait's desert climate. The result was published by Gulf Bank in their 1990 diary on the theme of "The Green Heritage of Kuwait".

The cover represents native desert flowers — the iris — happily transplanted in private gardens. Traditional plants that formed the pre-oil landscape are the date palm, crist-thorn, henna tree, acacia species and salt bushes. New arrivals are the quinquails-indica and the amaryllidaceae species.

The researchers found a controlled environment could produce a flash of colour — and fragrance. Najat Sultan of the Sultan Gallery said: "The site studies and the material gathered was exciting and exemplary of the fruit of efforts of a controlled environment: fresh water, proper soil and shade."

The gallery commissioned Indian watercolourist Shamima Farid to sketch and document the green heritage. The paintings depict the "miracle" of a controlled environment and its spectacular results.

Some of the trees in the "green heritage" collection are over 20 years old, like the date palm sketched by Shamima; nature's colours come alive in Shamima's watercolours ranging from the delicacy of "umbrella grass" to the colour of hibiscus, amaryllis and Arabian jasmine. Some of the works have been printed in the Gulf Bank diary.

The entire "green heritage" collection of watercolours by Shamima, commissioned by the gallery, was shown at the Sultan Gallery in February this year. Shamima Farid, a resident of Kuwait, has exhibited her works in several collective shows and has won praise for her eye for beauty in nature.



Arabian Jasmine by Shamima



The Hibiscus

Play postponed

Room full of foreigners put in a tight corner

KUWAIT Players production of the comedy, *A Room Full of Foreigners*, due to be performed from May 28 to 31, has been postponed due to circumstances beyond the control of the production team.

The play, which had been cleared by the Ministry of Information, and a licence obtained by the Players, had to be postponed because they could not obtain permission to stage it at the UAS.

A Kuwait Players spokesman regretted the last minute cancellation and explained that the Ministry of Education, whose permission is needed to put on a play at a private school, said they did not have sufficient time to review the production, forcing the cancellation.

He said the production team was "miffed and upset" about the last minute cancellation but had decided not to scrap the project. He said they would stage the play in September, hopefully, at a different venue. The play was being directed by Michelle Jean, and rehearsals were in full swing for the May 28 opening.

A large number of amateur theatre buffs had booked seats for the play and were disappointed to learn about the cancellation.



Musical charity

WELL-KNOWN Polish pianist Anna Cezary Owerkowicz recently gave a recital at the Polish Charity Concert at the Mouselpap Theatre. Yugoslavian musicians also performed "Faces of the Desert," music by Marek Bilinski, was also presented to much acclaim.

The charity concert was in aid of young patients with kidney disorders. Proceeds will go towards buying dialysis machines for children undergoing treatment in Poland.

Above: Owerkowicz takes a bow after the performance; below: view of the audience.



CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus Hanafi Al Ubbehah (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fawzi	Al Fahheel Jackie & Bruce to the Rescue Al Jahra No Hard Feelings Granada Power Force Salaibikhat Night Stick Al Jleeb Takkar (Bengali) Ahmadi Drive-In C.O.D
Al Sahniya Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic) Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil	PRAYERS
Al Hamra Hanafi Al Ubbehah (Arabic) Drive-In Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)	Fajr 3.17 am
Al Firdous Aakuri Baazi (Hindi) Starring: Govinda, Mandakani	Zuhur 11.45
Fahheel Open Air Commando (Hindi)	Asr 3.20 pm
	Maghreb 6.41
	Isha 8.10

French style goes to Far East

By Diana Abou Halder

Arab Times staff

UNTIL end October, the Meridien hotel at Phuket, Thailand is offering travellers a "Celebration Package" for \$90 which includes three days and two nights accommodation, a round-trip transfer from the airport, discounted tours along with other give-aways and discounts for children, announced Tony Cousens, vice-president for marketing and sales of the international hotel chain who is on a promotional visit to Kuwait.

"Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Cousens said that Meridien is offering a number of business packages through the hotel's reservation office and travel agents.

"When Le Meridien Jin Lang Beijing and Le Meridien Jakarta open in November 1990 and January 1991 respectively, they will bring the number of Meridien hotels in Asia Pacific to ten," said Cousens adding that the hotel chain is proud of the two new additions which will harmoniously combine local

colour and tradition with the refinement and elegance of the French, a combination which has earned Meridien the loyalty of business and leisure travellers all over the world. "The high quality of Meridien service has earned chain properties a number of awards including the 'Five Diamonds' ranking for Le Meridien Vancouver."

Cousens showed slides of the Meridiens in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, Bangkok, Changi, Phuket and Delhi.

The team of sales and marketing managers for the Middle East and the Asian Pacific Meridien hotels arrived in Kuwait after a 10-day visit to Jeddah, Riyadh and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia to present their chain of over 50 hotels world-wide to airline and travel agencies and the business sector.

The team that includes representatives from Singapore, Colombo, Thailand and Hong Kong, aims at presenting the mixture of local diversity and international unity of standards in the chain to the local business community.



Kuwait Meridien staff with members of visiting team. (R to L) Mazen Murie, public relations manager; Tony Cousens, vice-president for marketing and sales; Nadya Ayad, director of sales and marketing; Kaatlon Woods, general manager and Alain Briere, vice-president, sales and marketing for the Middle East.

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Bousbahri Gallery

A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Bousbahri Gallery, North Salamiya Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jama'ei are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest

May 30: Madhu and Friends present *Krithya Nanni*; Malayalam; Stage Index perform *Shanti Parvam*, Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Maarich Songbad*; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform *Chanteeran and His Clan*; Malayalam. Naya Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud); Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC, Funaites; 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Social

PAC membership
THE Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) have launched a membership campaign. All Pakistanis are welcome. Membership forms available from PAC. For details contact A S Qureshi (5716388); A S Gbuzali (5631815); N Khan (4843578); Z Butt (2414570).

June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme; Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm, close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Kuwait Players AGM
JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting; 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel.

LIL

May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon: Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting; coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann — 531-6905.

Hotels

At Al Salam
Al Bandar Collee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Meridien
La Brasserie Restaurant
Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.
Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialities.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.50 Kaola: cartoons
10.10 News Summary
10.15 World News via Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Wajhat Nazar: Arabic serial: part 4
11.25 Good Morning: variety
12.00 Nuwarad Bu Alawi: local Arabic serial:
12.30 News summary
12.35 Closedown

Evening

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Mama Anisa and Children: prepared by Samiya Mohammad
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial: ep. 12
7.00 Songs
7.15 Quraan and Science: prepared and presented by Dr Shawki Ibrahim
8.15 Songs
8.30 Good Evening: magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Amiyat Al Ithnain: weekly programme, presented by Mohammad Al Barges
10.15 Muzakkarat Al Zawaj: Arabic serial
11.00 Variety Show
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.20 Holy Quran, Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thunder Cats: Car-



The Equalizer (Edward Woodward; above), on KTV2 tonight.

6.30 Animals of Africa: Hippopotamus.
7.00 Roving Report: Weekly roundup of Arab and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "A Fish Called..." Charles is uncertain about his friendship with Barry. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Around the World: As the title suggests, this documentary brings news and views from countries around the world.
9.00 The Equalizer: "Time Present, Time Past". McCall's son has been kidnapped and the Bulgarians are reportedly holding him. Can McCall rescue his son? Starring: Edward Woodward.
10.00 Family Matters:

"False Arrest". The family prepared for a TV actor's visit but Carl believes the man is an imposter. Comedy.
10.30 Classic Colour Movies: The Fighting 69th Regiment. Starring: James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, George Brent. Set in World War I, it tells the story of a cocky soldier who becomes a hero.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite Closedown

Sports Channel

4.55 Handball: Al Salmiya vs Moscow (Russian team).

Please note that KTV programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



Kalpak anniversary

A colourful song and dance show was presented to celebrate the first anniversary of Kalpak, a cultural and literary group. Above: some of the young dancers entertaining guests. Below: a view of the audience.



Music

Summer Rock Concert
June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387998/2563395 after 5 pm.

Lecture

Higher education
MAY 28: 6 pm. Lecture and video show: "Access to your first degree" focus on how to get on a British degree programme. Open to Kuwaiti, Indian and Pakistani students and parents. At the British Council, Mansouriya. Reserve seats. Tel: 2520067/8; 9 and ask for Kate Harries or Elizabeth Lockey.

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

At the Plaza:

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Meridien

French food promotion: until May 31, specialties from Provence, south of France, will be featured in the Versailles Restaurant.

Competition

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch. Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS
Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta omelette; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiyah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdownah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

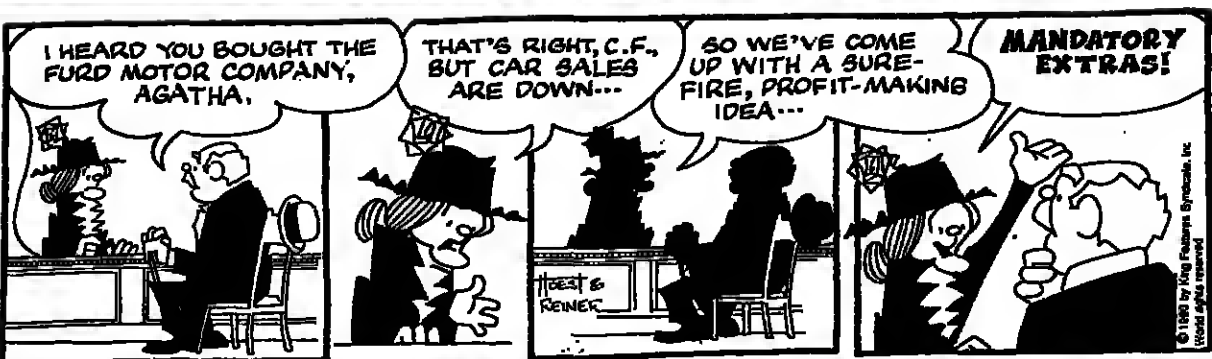
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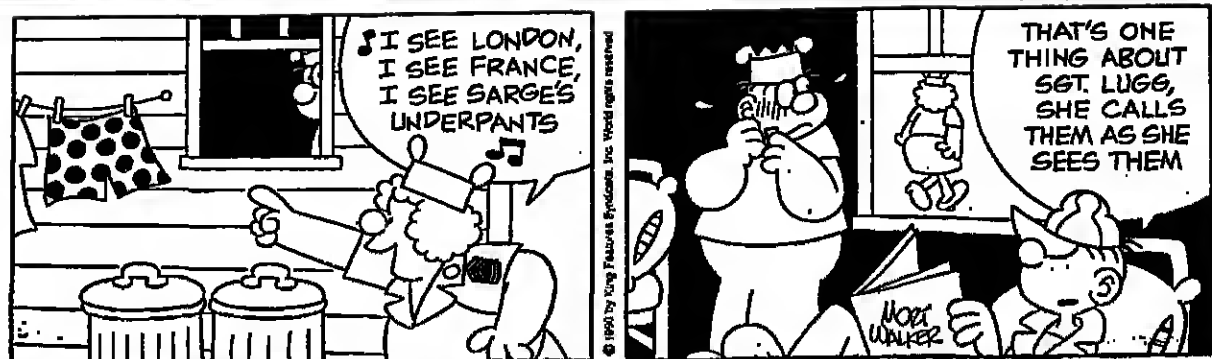
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AGATHA CRUMH



BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



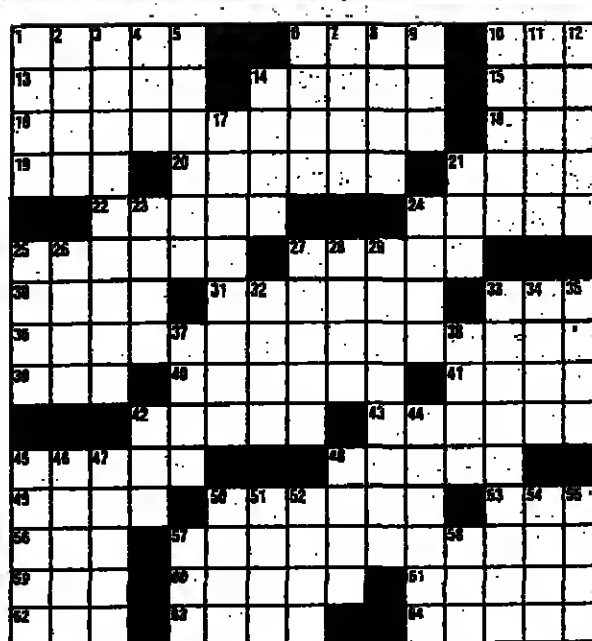
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Foundation
 - Wight or Capri
 - Place for a healthy holiday
 - Slip by
 - Dark
 - Big eater
 - Voluntary work, in a way
 - Oahu music-maker, for short
 - "My country — of thee"
 - WWII menaces
 - Prayer ender
 - Mint products
 - "Lulu" or "Martha"
 - Building beam
 - Boers
 - Eager
 - Referee's relative
 - Palindromic name
 - Yearly Fifth Ave. events
 - Opp. of WSW
 - German gentlemen
 - Tree trunk
 - Spokes
 - Debussy opus
 - Barber's need
 - Mega follower
 - Made tracks
 - Ness's target
 - Afternoon social
 - Stadium cheer
 - Like most appliances
 - Historic time
 - Make changes
 - Electron tube
 - Lacking color
 - Give way
 - More logical
- DOWN**
- Sun or Bible
 - Jail trailer
 - Take a magazines
 - Altar words
 - Unruffled
 - "To Live and Die —": 1965 flick
 - Vegas machine
 - Actress
 - Ullmann's namesakes
 - Solissons summer
 - Froth
 - Tightwad
 - Rocket stage
 - Martian transports, for short
 - Interfered
 - Imitate
 - Edible root
 - Nonpareil
 - Big blow
 - Landl
 - Heidi's creator
 - Help with the dishes
 - Tehran natives
 - Husband, in Paris
 - Doter's emotion
 - Salami center
 - On the briny
 - Liszt comp.
 - Be a party to
 - Steiger or Serling
 - Bakery offerings
 - Shakespeare's Kato, for one
 - Crown for Princess Di
 - Actress Ada
 - Twine
 - Arrived
 - Tucked in for the night
 - Corn stick
 - Frankfurt finish
 - Ripener
 - Fond du —, Wisc.
 - By way of

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MAJ LOSE SOSA
ERA INORB TRAMP
TAW OFFBROADWAY
ALBANIA ANNETTE
ONERS AROUIT
FINALE ALLOS
AMIR BRICE DEL
MANTOMANOENSE
ENG PALOS DELL
GERES ABELLES
BAYING SUOMI
ADAMSON ERRANDS
BULLETRTRAIN ERE
ATTEA HORSE ROT
YATTS ASTIO SPA

GOREN BRIDGE

SCUTTILING A SLAM

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 6 5 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ 8
♣ A 7 6 2

WEST
♠ K 10 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ K J 9

EAST
♠ J 8
♥ 10 7 4
♦ K J 10 7 3
♣ 10 5 4

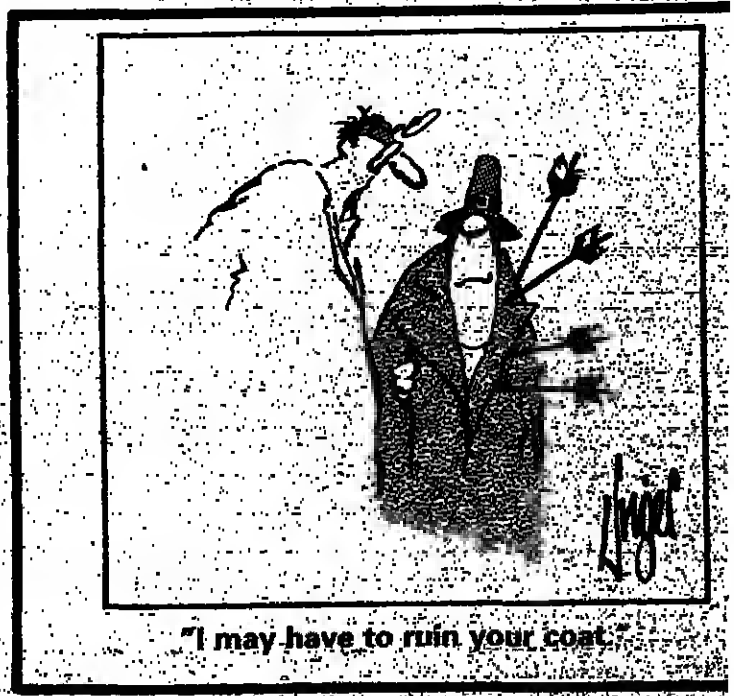
SOUTH
♠ Q 9
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ A 9 2
♣ Q 8 3

The bidding:
North Pass East 1 ♥ South Pass West 2 NT
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♦ Dbl Rdbl Pass
6 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

This hand from the recent Vanderbilt Team Championship, the major event of the ACBL's Spring North American Championship in Fort Worth, Texas, is replete with interest, both in the bidding and play.

Since North-South were playing 15-17 point no trump openings, South judged his hand as too strong for that action. North's jump to four diamonds showed a singleton in that suit and confirmed hearts as trumps. East doubled to suggest a possible lead, or sacrifice if West



Aries
March 21 - April 20

This is going to be an interesting day for you. However, you must make sure that your chores also get done. Do not allow your emotions to run wild but do not repress them either. Be moderate.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You are liable to allow yourself to be influenced for the worse. Try to avoid getting caught up in detail. Show more goodwill towards others and avoid acting out of malice or malevolence. Be tolerant.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You will hear something that you should take with a pinch of salt. Make sure you do not abandon your principles but avoid being obstinate. Do not seek to escape from meeting your commitments. Be reliable.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Make sure you do not give positive promise you have not. Act swiftly but do not. Be basic and rush for speed. Do allow yourself more room for manoeuvre.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will find it hard to make up your mind, but there is nothing to be gained by 'sitting on the fence'. Your partner will be a great help to you in this respect, too. Pay more attention to reason than to intuition. Be polite.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22

Something that seemed like a good opportunity will turn out to be nothing of the kind. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 27. You will be able to do something to widen your cultural horizons. Make sure you keep your expenditure within bounds. Be considerate.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Something you have learnt recently will still require a great deal of practice, but you are getting there. You should have more faith in yourself and confidence in others. Avoid change for its own sake, but do not turn your back on it either. Be tactful.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You are more liable to mistakes and should be on the alert for them. Do allow for that. Others, too, are liable to mistakes. Do not permit yourself to be motivated by jealousy. Be less pessimistic.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will tend to be rather easily offended, try to be a little less sensitive. Make sure you do not delay what you will know should be done now. Use a little more common-sense. Be more selective.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

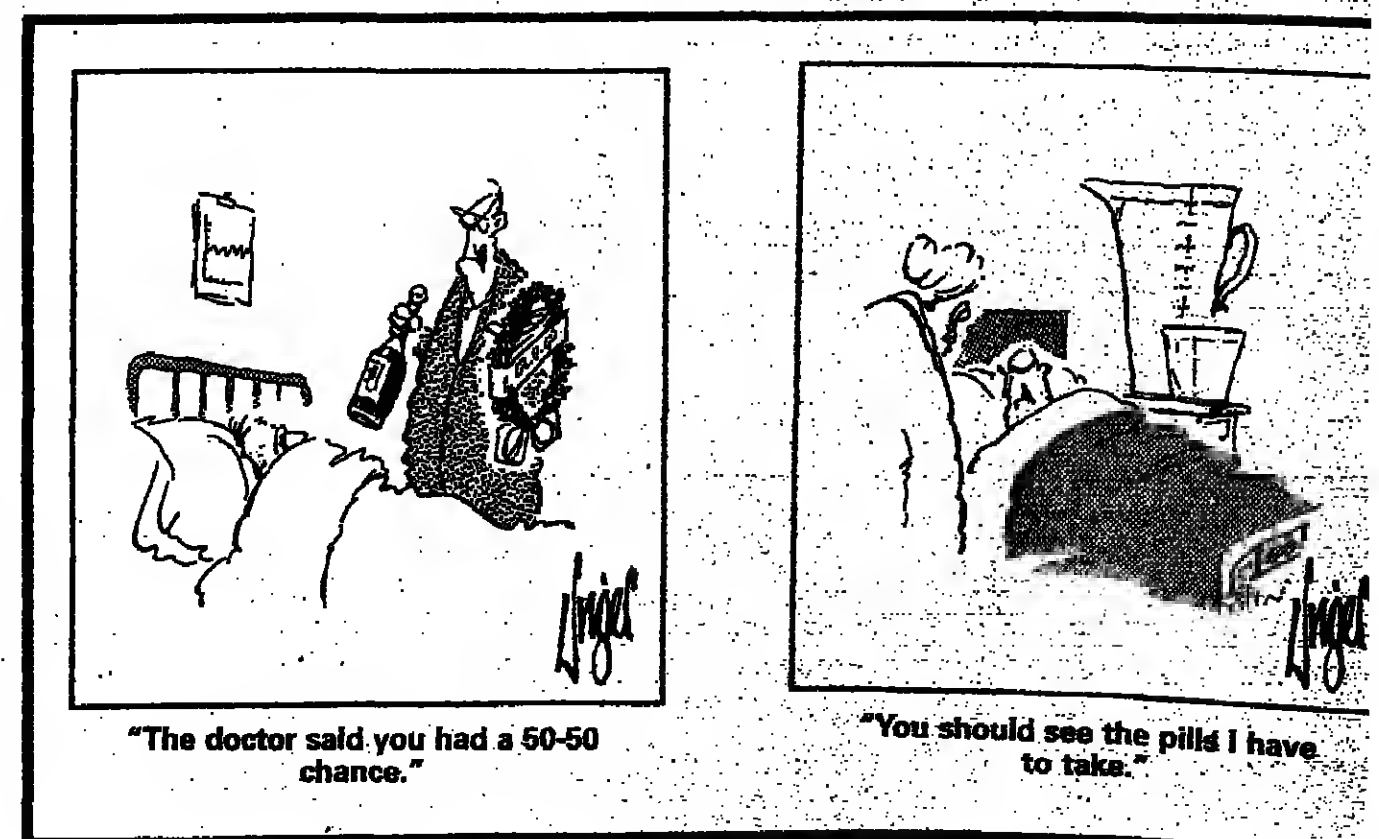
Give your sense of humour just a bit more exercise. You should try to be a little more orderly. Do not believe all you hear and do not yourself spread rumours or contribute to gossip. Be generous.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You will be able to find the solution to a problem that has been bothering you. If you show a little more determination you will be able to achieve your goal. However, you must stay within the bounds of reason. Be accurate.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

A promise that has been made is liable to be broken. Do not fastidious about it. You will be able to learn from experience. Be less regret.



Charming author loses charm; and 'markers' soiled

The Gold Coast, by Nelson Demille (Warner, 500 pp., \$21.95)
THE bestselling author of *The Charm School* has lost his charm.

John Sutter is a Wall Street lawyer with a rich wife. Upper crust types, but seedy and even sordid in some respects. Frank Bellarosa, a mobster who has his points, moves in next door. It's a pretty good premise for a novel, but this is a pretty bad novel.

The problems are these: the characters are hard to like, and sometimes they are hard to believe. Take Sutter's wife. She's a hot for sex, but a cold fish in the affection department. It doesn't come off, and the whole ending is spoiled by the implausibility of her character.

The mobster is overbearing and two-dimensional, so you can dislike him as a character or dislike Nelson

Demille's off-the-mark characterisation. The lawyer, who narrates, is a very witty man, but his cynicism about everything is more overbearing than any social strongarming by the guy next door.

One comes away with the impression Demille's next book could be very funny if he fashions a story of happier events.

Justice Not Vengeance, by Simon Wiesenthal, Translated by Ewald Osers (Grove Wiedenfeld, 384 pp., \$22.50)

AT 81, despite the international acclaim he has received for plucking old Nazis from their hiding places and exposing their crimes, Simon Wiesenthal is a profoundly frustrated man.

From the moment he staggered from the Mauthausen Concentration Camp in 1945 a near corpse weighing

110 pounds (50 kg), Wiesenthal relentlessly documented Germany's industrialised genocide of 6 million Jews.

The owl-like investigator, in his memoir *Justice Not Vengeance*, tells one suspense-filled tale after another about how he pieced together clues to bag the most notorious officers of the Third Reich.

Wiesenthal takes readers into the shadowy Odessa network of former Nazi officers, who organised an underground railroad to help colleagues escape prosecution. One nice bit of information is the deal Wiesenthal struck with the author of *The Odessa File*, the successful book and film based on his work, in an effort to smoke out yet another Nazi on the run.

But for all the headlines, victories and honours, this memoir conveys

mostly the author's deep sadness, his puzzlement at how the gruesome facts laid bare of Nazi atrocities are so often ignored and even suppressed.

More than his triumphs, Wiesenthal in this book dwells on his maddening defeats.

Wiesenthal is bitter that in Austria he has been reviled as a mad avenger who continues to remind his countrymen of their past collaboration with Hitler. Still, Wiesenthal bulls ahead, insisting that justice demands an accounting. As one of the few surviving witnesses, he is determined the world not forget.

Markers, by Sidney Zion (Donald I. Fine, 426 pp., \$19.95)
ONE pre-publication blurb for this book is signed Frank Sinatra, in whose

name it is called "Worldly, witty, warm and wise." Some may also find it soiled, scarred and sophisticated.

But no matter: it also is an absorbing tale of the fast-lane, high-stakes world of law, politics and journalism in and around New York that doubtless will sell big in hard and soft covers and end up as some kind of PG-13 or R-rated movie. Its promoters call the book this year's *Bonfire of the Eighties*, and it may just be that preciously inside.

Sidney Zion, coincidentally a lawyer, journalist and man-about-New York, also wrote a major biography of Roy Cohn and the temptation is strong to see the central figure of this book as a kind of straight version of the original article.

But whether he is a model or not, Zion's Jesse Frank is a larger-than-life big time operator whose life is defined

by the markers — favours owed to him for favours done for others — he holds against everyone from his favourite bartender to the president of the United States.

The story is about how the good guy, a newspaperman, keeps Jesse from getting a "royal flush marker on the world." It's a little complicated and not altogether the most satisfying triumph of virtue over evil, but that's the way it goes in world of markers.

Mine by Robert R. McCammon (Pocket, 442 pp., \$18.95)

DESPITE being labelled "a novel of terror," Robert McCammon's *Mine*, is not frightening in the classic sense.

It is more thrilling than terrifying to go along on the wild, cross-country ride McCammon has set up for mild-mannered society reporter Laura

Clayborne as she chases after her newborn son, stolen by Mary "Terror" Terrell, and aging, underground radical from the 1960s.

Their paths cross in Atlanta at the hospital where Laura gives birth to her first child, David, who is taken from her arms by Mary — insanely convinced she can recapture her glory days by bringing a boychild to her one-time lover and radical group leader.

From there it's a bloody, murderous chase across the United States, joined at times by a former FBI agent whose previous run-in with Mary's group left him disfigured and seething for revenge.

The horror in *Mine* is watching Clayborne evolve into a mirror image of Terrell. The scary part is it could happen — to any parent.

Dystonia victims cope with pain, muscle spasms — and other people's lack of understanding

Mystery disease that tortures the body

By Frances Hubbard

DYSTONIA is a painful disease which strikes old and young with equal force. It is more common than muscular dystrophy and it can blind, cripple or deform within the space of a few months — yet few people have even heard of the condition.

Until recently, sufferers were likely to find themselves accused of malingering when they complained of feeling unwell. Doctors seldom came across dystonia and many failed to recognise the symptoms.

One Hampshire woman had to wait 30 years for a correct diagnosis of the disease which contorted her entire body in violent muscle spasms. By the time doctors realised what was wrong it was too late for her. The tranquilliser she was given for her "imaginary" illness had turned her into a passive shadow of her old self.

To the estimated 20,000 people in Britain who have some form of dystonia, it can seem as if no-one wants to know. But there is hope. The disease is gradually gaining recognition and a growing number of sufferers are learning to cope — with help from new drugs.

The precise cause of dystonia is unknown, but the disease is triggered by a chemical imbalance in the area of the brain which controls movement. This stops muscles from working in a normal way by sending them into uncontrollable spasms. The result can be severely twisted limbs, clenched hands or faces screwed up into a permanent grimace.

Problems usually start in one area of the body, such as the neck or the wrist. This localised form of the disease is called focal dystonia and, because it comes in many varieties, it can be difficult to identify.

Torticollis — the most common form of the disease — makes it twist round to one side. The result can be hardly noticeable, or so severe that the sufferer's head rests on his or her shoulder.

Blepharospasm is an especially nasty type of dystonia which can make someone with perfect eyesight effectively blind. The muscles round the eye go into complete spasm, forcing the eyelids shut and contorting the whole face.

The blindness can last for minutes at a time and, in extreme cases, plunges sufferers into darkness for weeks on end. As the spasms often happen without warning, they turn everyday events such as driving or crossing the road into potentially lethal hazards for dystonia victims.

Peter Heaver, from Wiltshire, was travelling down a busy motorway one night when his view of the traffic was suddenly replaced by blackness. He regained his sight in time to pull in to a layby but a few more seconds of blindness could have led to tragedy.

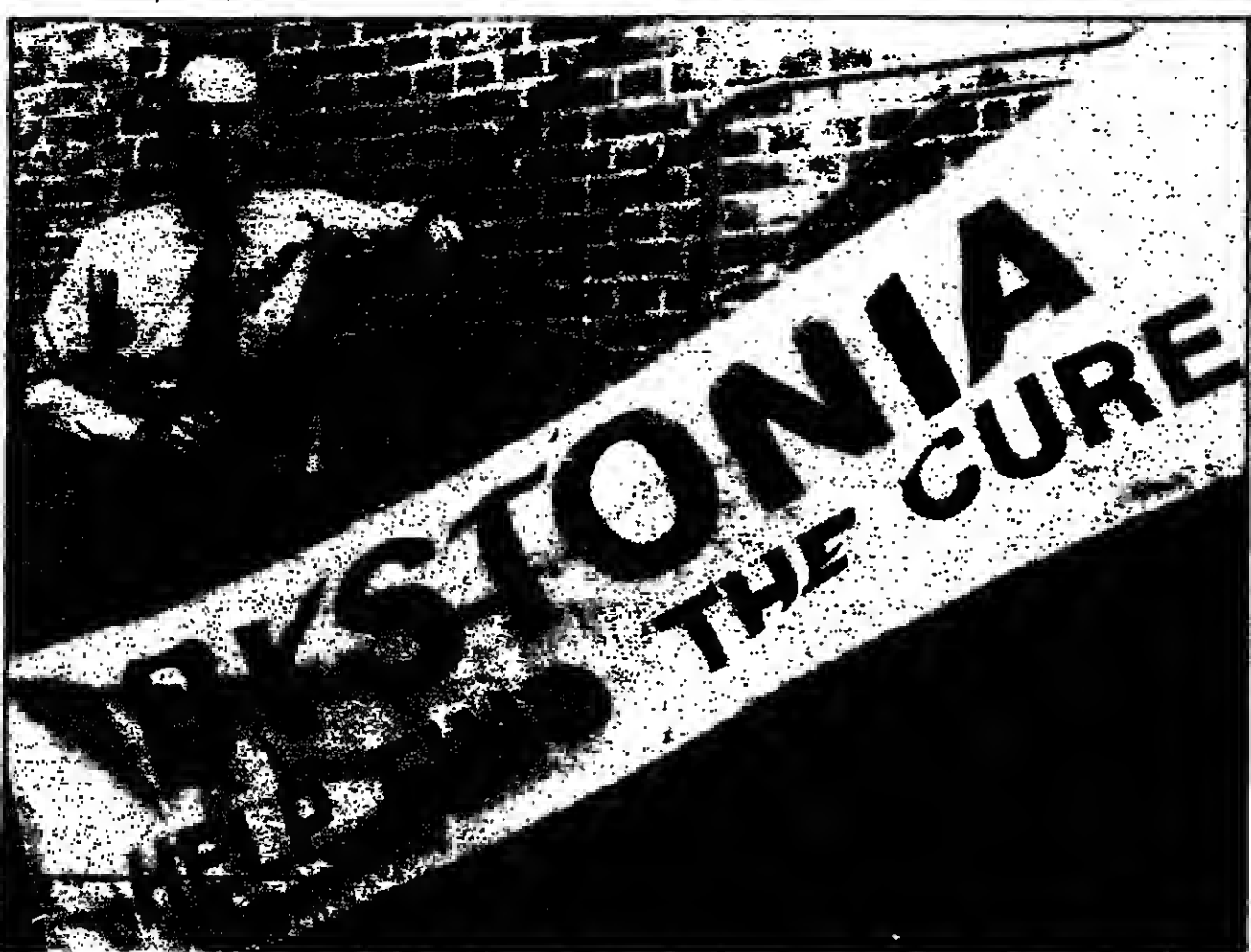
It was Peter's first inkling that he had blepharospasm. Now, more than a year later, he has overcome the worst effects of the dystonia thanks to a course of vaccinations. But he still has to take extreme care. Simple jobs like operating a power drill are fraught with risks for him.

Another form of dystonia is "writer's cramp". The familiar name of this condition disguises a disease which can be bad enough to make people abandon their careers. Cruelly, it tends to strike those who use their hands to make a living.

Writers, sportsmen and musicians are more prone than other groups to the dystonia, which curls fingers into tight claws and causes sharp pains from the wrist to the shoulder of the affected arm.

There is a theory that dystonia sometimes results from trauma to a particular area of the body, but experts are still researching a series of illnesses and injuries which could be culprits of the disease.

Michael Eaton, director of the London based Dystonia Society, believes there is a link between dystonia and damage to the body. "So-called writer's or typist's cramp usually happens to people who make heavy demands on that set of muscles," he said.



Michael Eaton, director of the Dystonia Society, finds that 80 per cent of his members have been wrongly sent for psychiatric counselling.



Donna Challenger, her mum Jackie and brother Raymond. Donna's just a normal teenager except she happens to have dystonia, says Jackie.

"Several people have gone on to develop dystonia after injuring themselves, but what we don't know is if they had a genetic tendency towards the disease in any case. So much of it is still a mystery that we have to explore all the options very carefully before we can make pronouncements."

"What's really extraordinary about dystonia is the way it's different in every case. It comes on gradually for some people — almost overnight for others. For some, it follows an illness. For some it seems to come out of nowhere. That makes it difficult to come up

with a definitive cure, because there are many options of treatment."

Although focal dystonia ranges over a frightening number of areas, including the larynx, jaw and back, it does not usually spread far to other parts of the body. But in a few cases the disease develops into general, or "torsion," dystonia, which sends virtually every muscle into spasm.

Sufferers invariably end up in wheelchairs because their limbs twist up into their bodies and make walking an impossibility. When the throat and vocal muscles are also in spasm,

victims of the disease are unable to communicate by normal speech.

Dystonia makes no difference to a sufferer's intelligence or memory and many of the people who find themselves caught inside a body which they can't control go through severe mental stress, as well as physical pain.

"One of the most damaging effects of the disease is the psychological one," Michael Eaton told me. "There is a problem of isolation and alienation especially if a perfectly bright person is unable to work or get out to enjoy the social life he or she used to."

"Dystonia puts a strain on the whole family because it makes sufferers more introverted and self-conscious and, frankly, sometimes more difficult to live with. One of the most important things we at the Dystonia Society can offer is support for people who are under strain."

Michael is still fighting hard to dispel the lingering image of dystonia as a hypochondriac's disease. "I'd say that over 80 per cent of the Society members have been sent to see a psychiatrist at some point."

"Dystonia was only taken out of the field of psychiatry and into the area of neurology in the mid-70s. Before that, doctors who knew nothing about the disease would assume that it didn't really exist except in the patient's mind."

"But I'm delighted that attitudes are changing at last. Doctors are better informed and sufferers are happier to come forward if they don't think they'll be dismissed as cranks."

Scientists, too, have made a breakthrough which could change the lives of many people now limited by dystonia. A vaccine called botulinum, developed from the deadly botulinum toxin, can be injected straight into the afflicted muscles to counteract the effects of spasm. The benefits last for up to three months and often make a dramatic improvement.

Children who develop focal dystonia before

they are 13 years old have a 60 per cent chance of going on to get total dystonia. But the figure goes down with age. Teenagers have only a 35 per cent chance of getting total dystonia and adults run a risk of just three per cent.

And while children usually inherit the tendency for dystonia from one — or both — of their parents, adult cases are often linked to injury or a related illness such as Parkinson's or Huntington's disease.

All types of dystonia are worse when sufferers are under strain because extra tension makes the muscle spasms worse. Yet the daily pressure of coping with other people's reaction to the disease can be the worst problem of all for its victims.

Just a little more public awareness about dystonia could help people with the disease to lead more normal lives. "If the disease was better understood a great deal of hurt could be prevented," said Michael Eaton.

"For instance, one of our members, who has torticollis, was sitting on a bus and because of the way her neck was twisted, found herself staring at the collar of the man next to her."

"After about 10 minutes, he turned round to her and shouted, 'Do you think you've seen enough now?' Then stormed off to another seat. It was very embarrassing for her and she told me it was exactly the sort of thing which stopped her going out. We'd like to stop it happening at all."

The Dystonia Society can be contacted at The Ovalhouse Workshop, 41 North Road, Islington, London N7. Telephone 071 700 4594.

Donna's case

DONNA CHALLENGER is a bright 13-year-old with fiery brown eyes. She likes Jason Donovan, has a serious crush on a boy at her school and enjoys playing computer games... just like thousands of other teenagers.

But Donna has general dystonia. She relies on a wheelchair to give her mobility and three times a week she undergoes intensive physiotherapy to try and relax her knotted muscles. Her vocal cords are also affected by the disease and she is unable to speak.

Her mother, Jackie, first noticed problems with Donna's movement when she was a few months old — but it took doctors five years to pinpoint dystonia as the culprit.

Now, Donna goes to an East London school for the physically handicapped, where she's making good progress with the help of a computer. Her muscle spasms are less violent than they used to be, thanks to new course of drugs, and she's hoping another medical breakthrough will give her more control over her limbs.

Jackie, 37, said: "Donna realises that doctors have to find a cure almost by trial and error and she's quite happy to try different things out. She's always warned about any possible side effects and she accepts that as part of the deal."

"The spasms have been pretty consistent lately — which is a boon — but in the past we've not known how Donna would be from one day to the next. It's the same with her speech. When she's relaxed she can manage the odd word, but as soon as she gets nervous the spasms get worse and she can't say a thing."

"What I really want to emphasise is that Donna's just the same as everyone else is inside. She's normal — except she has dystonia. We don't hide her away at all and she loves to get out and meet people."

"If they're rude to her and they stare, I tell her to give them a smile. If they don't smile back, she has her own method of dealing with them. She pokes out her tongue!"

"Donna's got a happy, easy-going personality but I can see her getting really frustrated when she knows exactly what's going on and she can't join in the conversation. It's hard for her but she's a trier. She won't give up — and neither will the doctors who're working to help her."



Julie Sheldon, an ex-royal ballet dancer, was crippled by total dystonia less than a year ago. Yet today she is among the lucky five to 10 per cent who make a total recovery from the disease.

Cambodia to embark on 'dance diplomacy'

By Denis D. Gray

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP): Employing a sensuous, 1,000-year-old body language, Cambodia's classical ballet will soon embark on some "dance diplomacy" designed to help the country out of international isolation.

The government also hopes its dancers will help disprove charges its culture has been "Vietnamized," observers say.

"The truth is as you see it. One cannot change one's soul. The Vietnamese have their culture and we have ours," said dance director Preouk Chhengk.

As he spoke, young girls went through a rigorous practice session at the University of Fine Arts, weaving hands, swaying hips and gliding across the floor to tell stories of bygone loves and wars.

Graduates of such training are to make their first trip to the West since the early 1970s, when the US-supported Lon Nol government held power. The Khmer Rouge reign of terror from 1975-78 all but eradicated the classical dance.

Beginning in June, the national troupe will spend seven weeks performing in Britain and the Netherlands. The dancers also have been invited to a September arts festival in Los Angeles, although it is uncertain whether entry will be granted since Washington has no diplomatic ties with Phnom Penh.

The foreign tours are seen by knowledgeable observers as small steps toward international recognition by a government that most of the world shuns in favour of a guerrilla coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Domestically, the general revival of traditional arts has probably helped the communist, Vietnam-installed government gain some popularity and buttress its claim of fostering Cambodian nationalism. Vietnam, which invaded Cambodia and ousted the Khmer Rouge in early 1979, unquestionably has had a significant effect on the country's political course. But Cambodian stridently maintain their powerful neighbour has not debased, or even influenced, their culture.

At the Fine Arts University, for example, the only discernible Vietnamese influence is the presence of a few teachers of Western instruments like the accordion and violin. There are reportedly no qualified Cambodians for these instruments.

The Sihanouk-led guerrilla coalition, which includes the Khmer Rouge, is fighting to overthrow the government. The coalition and others have claimed Cambodia is the target of Vietnamese "cultural imperialism."

While independent observers, including Western aid agency officials based in Phnom Penh, discount such charges, they note the state and Communist Party make use of culture and put limits on artistic expression.

Minister of Culture Chheng Phon stressed it was the duty of artists and intellectuals to support "good leaders" and help fight against the Khmer Rouge.

Despite censorship of the media, the former actor and music scholar claims more artistic freedom exists under the current government than those of Lon Nol or Sihanouk, who ruled Cambodia first as king and then head of state.

He said satires mocking official corruption and lust for power currently being performed would have been banned in Sihanouk's time.

In an interview the minister said the past decade had seen the rebirth of traditional culture from "year zero" — the Khmer Rouge era.

The next phase, he said, would emphasize "unleashing the grey matter, creating something, not just preserving."

How far this can go in a country at war and under one-party control remains to be seen.

William Labban, an Australian ethnomusicologist helping the ministry, says there is nothing in Phnom Penh comprising an intellectual community. There are no literary magazines and little printing of any material.

"It's a vacuum and it can't be filled while there is a war going on. You need money and leisure before it can happen," Labban said.

But Labban and others say the revival of traditional culture has been impressive given the meagre resources and the physical depredations and slaughter of artists, teachers and other intellectuals by the radical Khmer Rouge.

Today, the country has three archaeologists, two architects and three veteran teachers of the classical dance.

Robocop's partner returns after training

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): If actress Nancy Allen is more convincing as Robocop's partner in the sequel, *Robocop II*, it might have something to do with those hours she spent training at the Los Angeles police academy.

Or, maybe the fact that her father was New York city police lieutenant is still having an effect.

It's been three years since the original *Robocop* and Allen was a bit uneasy about returning to her role.

"I felt strange at first. I wondered if I could remember how Anne Lewis felt about things and how she reached, but once I read the script the character was right there," Allen said in an interview.

"Once an actress has played a character it remains inside of her forever. It helped that I like Anne. She's a terrific cop and it's fun to play her."

"It never occurred to me that I would play the role again until I heard and read about public reaction to the original picture. I'd never seen such tremendous enthusiasm, so it appeared that they would make a sequel."

"In the three-year interval, Anne hasn't changed much except she's a little bit tougher. She's decisive and aggressive," Allen said.

Of course, Anne is flesh and blood in this slightly futuristic setting and considerably more vulnerable at the hands of the villains than her Cyborg partner, played by Peter Weller.

Allen is delighted that Robo's only human components are his brain and heart, which eliminates any temptation on the part of the screenwriters to include a romantic relationship between the partners.

"Peter does a really good job in all that gear," she said. "There is no sexual ten-

sion between the two as there might be if Robo was a normal human male."

"I draw on the memory of Murphy, the man Robo was before he underwent all the cybernetics. In this picture there is more acceptance of the partnership between the characters than in the first film."

"I try to give the impression that Anne is dealing with a human being but she's not. He's computerized."

"Robo isn't the sort of character a girl would want to put her arms around, and I'm sure it would never occur to Robo to think of Anne as anything but a police partner."

"The major difference in my performance in this picture is that I went to the police academy twice a week for four weeks."

"Most of my time was spent handling and shooting guns. I became a really good shot."

"I also worked with the death

simulator. You walk into a room with your gun drawn, stand in front of a screen and you're asked to shoot or not shoot in a split second."

"The first time I shot at a man holding a knife, but he was pointing it at a dog. It was the wrong move."

"I wish I had time to go to the academy the first time. I had never even held a gun before. I was afraid of them. I gained a lot of respect for guns and how to use them."

"Once a performer becomes familiar with the technical aspects of the role, the physicality and the props, it gives you fewer things to worry about in a scene. You can concentrate on acting."

"I also studied with a martial arts instructor because the script called for a lot of action scenes. I intended to do most of my own stunts."

"It would have been possible if the physical stuff could have been done in one take, but fights and chases have to be

done again and again until the directors gets the scene he wants."

"Performers have to decide whether they are going to save their energy for acting or if they're going to blow it all in stunts. I still ended up doing some stunts. Fortunately, I had a great stunt double."

"My work with martial arts wasn't wasted. I think I could hold my own with anybody who tried to attack me. It's nice not to feel so physically afraid."

There already is talk of *Robocop III* in the event this sequel does as well as the box office as the original (\$80 million domestic gross).

"It would be nice to play Anne a third time," Allen said. "But my decision would be based on how good the script is."

The highest praise Allen received for her performance as Officer Anne Lewis came from her father, who told her she made a very believable cop.

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Colombia hold Egypt to draw in Cup warm-up

CAIRO, May 27, (Reuters). Egypt, recent 3-1 surprise winners over Scotland, were held to a 1-1 draw at home after fellow World Cup finalists Colombia snatched a late equaliser in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Eight minutes from the end substitute

Freddy Rincón was left unmarked with only goalkeeper Ahmed Shabier to beat and he slotted the ball neatly into the left-hand corner of the net to level the scores.

Egypt, yet to name their 22-man squad for the finals, pressed hard in the opening minutes and playmaker Taha Abu Zaid

twice forced Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita into making fine saves.

Colombia fought their way back into the game and striker Carlos Estrada came close three times in the space of five minutes.

But almost on the stroke of halftime

Egypt's Hassan twins combined to give the home side the lead.

Ibrahim Hassan sent over a superb cross which found his brother Hosam unmarked in the penalty area. Higuita appeared to have his head covered but it spun awkwardly after hitting the ground and shot into the net.

West Germans outlast Czechs

Spain beat Yugoslavia; Romania hold Belgium

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 27, (Reuters). A well-taken goal by midfielder Uwe Bein earned West Germany a 1-0 victory over Czechoslovakia in their World Cup warm-up game yesterday.

Bein picked up a through ball from captain Lothar Matthäus in the 25th minute and ran 30 metres to slot the ball into the right-hand corner of the net.

The goal was the high point of a solid performance by the West Germans who play in Group D

with Yugoslavia, Colombia and the United Arab Emirates in the first phase of the finals in Italy.

After a disappointing defensive performance in their last friendly against Uruguay which ended in a 3-3 draw, the West Germans, losing finalists at the 1982 and 1986 finals, played with much more poise.

Their back four, bolstered by the return from injury of veteran Libero Klaus Augenthaler, looked more secure than against the Uruguayans and the mid-

field, led by the talented Thomas Haessler and Pierre Littbarski, creative.

Bein's goal was timely for the 29-year-old Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder. He is battling with Andy Moeller for a regular slot in the side.

While they created several chances, Czechoslovakia, who play in Group A in the World Cup with hosts Italy, United States and Austria, lacked organisation.

West German coach Franz Beckenbauer said he was very satisfied with his team's performance considering they were only halfway through their pre-World Cup training camp.

The Germans met Denmark in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday for their last test before travelling to Italy.

"We cleared up a few problems we had against Uruguay," Beckenbauer said. "We concentrated in defence a lot better and the team battled a lot more for the ball."

"You can't play in top gear for the whole of the match at this stage. But I'm very pleased with today's performance."

Czechoslovak coach Jozef Venglos said the difference between the two teams had been in midfield. "The Germans were much better organised in midfield and we were not performing at all in that area," he said.

In Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, Emilio Butragueno scored from close range to give World Cup qualifiers Spain a barely deserved 1-0 win over fellow finalists Yugoslavia in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomis-

lav Ivkovic had been troubled only three times during the match when winger Manuel Manolo dummied full back Predrag Spasic and sent over a cross in the 56th minute.

The ball flew past Ivkovic and Real Madrid forward Butragueno easily scored from three metres.

Yugoslavia dominated the first half and created several chances but repeatedly failed with the final touch.

Dragon Stojkovic, who has signed a \$7 million preliminary contract with French champions Marseille, was at the heart of most of Yugoslavia's threatening attacks.

He tested goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta with a 20-metre shot as early as the third minute and midway through the half provided the pass from which midfielder Robert Prosinecki hit the bar.

The busy Zubizarreta also saved from Prosinecki and Zoran Vujic in the first half before Zlatko Vujovic beat him in the 38th minute only to see the ball bounce off the post.

In the second half Zubizarreta saved from Vujovic with his foot. Prosinecki lobbed the rebound over the goalkeeper but full back Miguel Hendao was on the goal-line to head clear.

Yugoslavia faded after Spain went ahead, but almost salvaged a draw when Stojkovic hit the post three minutes from time.

"This defeat may teach my players that scoring is what matters in this game, not just creating chances," said Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim.

His Spanish counterpart Luis Suarez said: "I am not entirely satisfied despite the win. Our play was hollow with too little chances created."

And in Brussels, Romania battled back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with fellow World Cup finalists Belgium in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Belgium went ahead in the sixth minute through midfielder Enzo Scifo, back in the side after losing his place under coach Walter Meeuwis, who was replaced by veteran Guy Thys in February.

Scifo, who plays for French club Auxerre, dribbled into the penalty area before slipping the ball past diving Romanian goalkeeper Silviu Lung.

Belgian defender Leo Clusters left lung helplessly in the 28th minute with a superb lob from just inside the penalty area.

The Belgians, with Scifo dominating the midfield, continued to trouble the Romanians who were playing their final warm-up match before the World Cup.

Two half-time substitutions gave Romania some extra impetus, however, and they pulled a goal back within seven minutes through defender Mircea Rednic.

Daniel Timofte, who came on for midfielder Gheorghe Hagi - recently signed by Spanish champions Real Madrid - and Florin Raducioiu injected fire into the Romanian side which pushed forward for the equaliser.

The second goal came in the 65th minute from a penalty by Marius Lacanus after Raducioiu was fouled by Stephen Demol.



A life photo of Rojas lying on the ground after being 'hit' by a firecracker. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rojas admits faking injury

SANTIAGO, May 27, (Reuters). Former Chilean captain Roberto Rojas ended nine months of denials yesterday and admitted he faked injury when a flare was thrown during a World Cup qualifier against Brazil.

In an interview with a La Tercera newspaper published yesterday, Rojas said: "I cut myself, I cut myself just once, but it must have been deep because there was a lot of blood."

Explaining his confession, he said: "I couldn't thrive with my conscience any more."

The International Football Federation (FIFA) banned Rojas from playing for life after the incident in September when he fell to the ground in the 69th minute of the game claiming to have been hit by a flare and was carried off covered in blood.

Brazil were leading 1-0 when the Chilean team quit the game in Rio de Janeiro's Maracanã stadium. FIFA awarded Brazil the match, assuring them of a place in this year's World Cup finals.

Rojas admitted to a FIFA tribunal that the flare - thrown by a Brazilian woman fan - did not hit him. But he had until now denied faking the injury, saying in an interview two days ago that he could not tell a lie.

In yesterday's newspaper interview Rojas said he had made a secret pact with central defender Fernando Astengo.

"If something happened to him, I would lead the team off. If something happened to me, he would do it. We hadn't worked out how the deal was going to work, but we had sworn it," he said.

Rojas said he used a scalpel blade given to him by team masseur Alejandro Koch to cut himself. The blade had been taped between his glove and the sleeve of his shirt.

He said he had intended to pretend to have been hit by something when running the goal to pick up the ball.

"But I realised during the game it was impossible. It was full of bursting with police... and there were too many photographers and cameramen who were focussing on me."

But his chance came when the flare fell behind him. "I heard something like an explosion and I threw myself to the ground. The flare never touched me. I turned towards the smoke and then I remembered the scalpel and I cut myself," Rojas said.

The incident was the biggest scandal in Chilean soccer history. Crowds protested outside the Brazilian embassy, burning banners saying "Brazilians, killers." La Tercera in a front page headline described the Brazilians as "Mafia."

FIFA also banned trainer Orlando Aravena for life, banned Astengo for five years and ruled the Chilean team out of the next World Cup.

Bilardo omits Brown

ROME, May 27, (Reuters). Carlos Bilardo omitted sweeper Jose Luis Brown yesterday when he named the 22-man squad that will defend Argentina's title in the World Cup finals starting in Italy on June 8.

Brown, 34, scorer of the opening goal in Argentina's 3-2 win over West Germany in the 1986 final in Mexico, has been struggling with a muscular problem in his left leg and had been unable to keep his place in the first team at Racing Club of Buenos Aires.

But Argentina's coach retained another veteran of the team that won the World Cup for Argentina for the second time four years ago, 33-year-old midfielder Ricardo Giusti of Independiente, whose fitness has been in doubt.

Bilardo made his decision after a practice game lasting 120 minutes non-stop and involving a squad of 23.

Brown failed to last the pace, while Giusti seemed well on the road to regaining full fitness after an injury.

"I told the lads (first) because I was forced to exclude one of the veterans of the team," Bilardo said on announcing the squad.

The squad contains seven survivors of the team that played in the 1986 final, including captain Diego Maradona of Italian champions Napoli.

It also contains a majority of foreign-based players with only eight, most of them defenders, coming from Argentine clubs.

Among the newcomers are stopper Jose Serrinella of Argentine champions River Plate and sweeper Simon Jimenez of Boca Juniors, who spent most of the 1980s in the French League after winning the World Youth Cup with a brilliant young Argentine side captained by Maradona in



Giusti (right): retained.

Japan in 1979.

Jorge Burruchaga of French side Nantes, scorer of the winning goal against West Germany at Mexico City's Aztec Stadium in 1986, has been plagued by injury in the last three seasons, but appears to have regained form in time for the finals.

Forward Gabriel Calderon, another member of the 1979 youth team and in Cesar Menotti's 1982 World Cup squad, was the last player to get a call from Bilardo, joining the squad at their Trigoria retreat outside Rome a week ago.

He replaces 34-year-old Jorge Valdano, a key player in Mexico, who failed in his bid to win a place in the squad after coming back from retirement.

Koech takes 3,000-metre steeplechase

GRANADA, Spain, May 27, (AP). World-record holder Peter Koech of Kenya won the Nunez Blanca Memorial Track and Field Meet's 3,000-metre steeplechase yesterday, edging Uruguay's Ricardo Vera by less than 3-10ths of a second.

Koech finished in 8:29.83, just ahead of Vera, who ran a 8:30.05, and another Kenyan, Matthew Birir, who finished in 8:33.35.

Peter Rono, also of Kenya, easily won 1,500-metre race at the seventh annual meet, finishing in 3:45.73 ahead of Spain's Alfredo Diaz Rodelas in 3:48.76 and Ken Washington of the United States at 3:48.76.

In the 100-metre sprint, Patrick Stevens of Belgium and Luis Fernandez Rodriguez of Spain finished in a dead heat with identical times of 10.34. Raymond Stewart of Jamaica was third at 10.38.

In the 800-metre race, Kenyans also dominated. Nixon Kiprotich won the event in 1:45.85, ahead of Spain's Jose Ramos Aronada (1:46.13) and countryman John Birir (1:46.33). Cuba's world-record holder in the high jump, Javier Sotomayor, easily won his event with a leap of 2.31 metres (7-foot, 7-inches). Next best was Gustavo Becker of Spain with a jump of 2.15 metres (7-1-2).

In women's events, East Germany's Silke Möller nipped Spain's Sandra Myers-Brown in the 100-metre, finishing .03 seconds ahead with a time of 11.16.

Romania's Tudorita Chidu won the 800-metre event by more than a second over Soviet Dalia Matuseviciene, finishing in 2:00.66.



Spanish delegation

Paco Ochoa (left), the only Spaniard ever to win an individual skiing Olympic gold medal, joins other members of the Spanish delegation in celebrating the announcement in Switzerland that Spain would host the 1995 World Alpine Ski Championship. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dynamo retain E. German title

EAST BERLIN, May 27, (Reuters). Dynamo Dresden retained the East German First Division soccer title yesterday by beating Lokomotive Leipzig 3-1.

Dynamo went into the final day of a dramatic season that saw political upheaval and the opening of East Germany's borders, promoting many top players to seek new jobs in the West German Bundesliga, equal on points with Karl-Marx-Stadt and Magdeburg. Karl-Marx-Stadt beat Magdeburg 1-0 to take second spot.

'Coach must be partly dictator and partly saint'

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 27, (UPI). Bobby Robson, manager of England's World Cup soccer team, said yesterday the man in charge of a national soccer team needs to be "a mixture of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Khaddafy."

Robson made the comment to Italian reporters at Santa Margherita di Pula, a few miles from Cagliari, where the England team arrived Friday to take up its World Cup qualifiers.

"A national team manager (coach), in order to survive, must be a mixture of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and (Libyan leader Col. Moammar) Khaddafy," Robson said.

"He must be partly saint and partly dictator. He must know how to use in equal measure the velvet glove and the iron fist."

"But it is still very hard to survive," said the England coach, who arrived in Sardinia amid a furor over his decision to quit England after the World Cup to take up a job as manager of the Dutch First Division club PSV Eindhoven.

Robson said he accepted the Dutch offer in order to get experience of European club soccer.

"I have never received an offer from an Italian club. If I had done I would have considered it with attention," he said.

"Italian soccer pleases me greatly. At the moment in Italy they play the best soccer in the world."

The England manager was scathing in his condemnation of English soccer "hooligans," who threaten to upset the preliminary round in Cagliari with their antics.

"They have already damaged the image of football and of England," he said. "To defeat them we must have severity and hard punishment."

Asked to predict the winner of the 1990 World Cup, to be fought out in Italy June 8-July 8, Robson replied with diplomatic caution.

Barnes misses own shotput mark

SAN JOSE, California, May 27, (Reuters). With a heave of 75 feet, 9 and 1/2 inches (23.10 metres) American shot putter Randy Barnes came within an inch (cm) of his six-day-old world record at the Bruce Jenner Athletics meeting yesterday.

Barnes' effort, the only one of six puts where he did not foul, saved the meeting which had been decimated by the absence of several international stars who had been entered.

"A contingent of Cuban athletes, including high jumper Javier Sotomayor who holds the world record at eight feet (2.43 metres), were delayed until

Friday in gaining entry visas from the US State Department, a meet official said. By that time it was too late for them to make airplane connections to get to the meet in time."

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, a two-event Olympic champion in 1988, also pulled out of the meet with an unspecified injury.

Besides Sotomayor, another top Cuban athlete who was stuck at home was sprinter Ana Quirot, the world's best in the women's 400 metres last year.

In Sotomayor's absence, American Holly Conway won the high jump with a leap of seven feet, 8 inches (2.3 metres) and

then just missed in three attempts at a US-National record of seven feet, 10 and 1/2 inches.

Conway, of Louisiana, had beaten a field that included Sotomayor at Sao Paulo, Brazil, last week in the Grand Prix tour's first meet of the season. He said that even if Sotomayor had been able to get here, he did not view the Cuban as a threat because Sotomayor is coming back from a knee injury.

"I jumped against him last week in Brazil, and I could tell it was still bothering him," Conway said.

"The 7-8 jump was so perfect that I tried to duplicate it in each

of the tries at 7-10 1/2. I'm happy to jump 7-8, but I would have liked to have gone higher."

"I expect to jump 8 feet this year, so I can't make a mountain out of a 7-10 1/2 molehill," he said.

Barnes said he was satisfied with his shotput yesterday, particularly considering all the hoopla that he has gone through since he set the world standard with a 75-foot, 10-1/2-inch (23.12 metres) throw last Sunday at a meet in Los Angeles.

"I'm kind of strung out for the week, and I think that hurt my consistency and my concentration a little," Barnes said.

Jordan helps Bulls beat Pistons

CHICAGO, May 27, (AP). Michael Jordan scored 47 points and led a second-half charge that brought the Chicago Bulls back from a 14-point deficit for a 107-102 victory over the Detroit Pistons yesterday in the Eastern Conference final.

The triumph cut Detroit's lead to 2-1 in the best-of-7 series that resumes at Chicago stadium tomorrow.

Jordan, who has not spoken to the media since last Tuesday's 102-93 loss, and Scottie Pippen led the Bulls third-quarter rally. After Detroit led 69-55, Jordan and Pippen sparked a 21-6 run that gave the Bulls a 76-75 lead on two free throws by Jordan.

Jordan scored 13 points in the period and Pippen,

who finished with 29 points and 11 rebounds, had 12. Two free throws by Vinnie Johnson gave Detroit a 77-76 lead as the quarter ended, but the Bulls went ahead to stay at 84-82 on another basket by Jordan.

A 3-pointer by Jordan with 2:22 left boosted the Bulls into a 99-90 lead and a three-point play by reserve Ed Nealy in the final minute made it 104-97.

Isiah Thomas led the Pistons with 36 points and Mark Aguirre came off the bench to score 22.

Thomas' fourth 3-pointer of the game, with 15 seconds remaining, closed the gap to 105-102 before Jordan sealed the victory with a pair of free throws with two seconds to play. Jordan was fouled after he rebounded a missed 3-point attempt by Aguirre that would have tied the score.

Australian sets world record

FANA, Norway, May 27, (AP). Kerry Saxby of Australia set a world record for the 10-kilometre walk yesterday with a clocking of 42 minutes 25.2 seconds at Fana Stadium where 13 world records have been set in 16 years.

Saxby's time shaved 14 seconds off the record set by Ilana Salvador of Italy.

Beate Anders of East Germany was runner-up to Saxby in 42:29.4 a new European record, the Norwegian national NTB news agency said.

Henderson ties Cobb's AL record



Henderson acknowledges the cheers of the crowd. (Reuters wirephoto)

OAKLAND, California, May 27, (AP). Rickey Henderson tied Ty Cobb's 62-year-old American League baseball record for career stolen bases yesterday and the Oakland Athletics won their sixth in a row, defeating the Cleveland Indians 6-3.

Henderson stole third base with one out in the fifth inning, giving him 692 steals in less than 11 Major League seasons. Cobb set the mark in 24 seasons from 1905-1928.

Only Lou Brock (938) and Billy Hamilton (937) have more career stolen bases. Hamilton played before 1900.

Felix Jose hit a two-run home run and Jose Canseco and Carney Lansford each drove in two runs as Bob Welch (6-2) improved to 6-0 lifetime against the Indians. Welch pitched seven innings and allowed nine hits.

White Sox 10, Tigers 4

Ron Karkovics had three hits, including a homer, leading the Chicago over Detroit. Bob Patterson (1-0) got the victory with 2-3 no-hit innings after relieving starter Jerry Kutzler in the fourth. Donn Palfrey, Wayne Edwards and Barry Jones finished up.

With one out in the sixth, and Chicago trailing 4-3, singles by Karkovics, Ozzie Guillen and Lance Johnson produced the tying run. After Jerry Don Gleaton relieved Jeff Robinson (4-4), Guillen scored on Robin Ventura's grounder and Johnson scored on Ivan Calderon's bunt single.

Royals 9, Yankees 4

Tom Gordon pitched a seven-hitter and Jim Eisenreich and Rey Palacios each drove in three runs to lead Kansas City over the Yankees.

Gordon (2-2) struck out nine and walked one in his first victory since April 22. He had a three-hit shutout entering the eighth before the Yankees scored four runs, three of them unearned.

Eisenreich had an RBI single and palacios hit a two-run double in a five-run second inning against Andy Hawkins (1-4). Palacios doubled in another run in the third and Eisenreich had a two-run single in the fourth.

Twins 6, Red Sox 5

Kirby Puckett's 449-foot (136-metre) homer to centre field leading off the bottom of the eighth inning broke a tie and gave Minnesota its sixth win in its last seven meetings with Boston.

Puckett's homer, his sixth of the season, came off reliever Rob Murphy (0-2) and was just short of the longest home run hit at the Metrodome this year—a 450-footer (137-metre shot) by Kent Hrbek on May 9 against Cleveland.

Gene Larkin had the first two-homer game of his career, including the first inside-the-park home run by a twin since Steve Lombardozzi hit one on Sept 28, 1988.

John Candelaria (5-1) the Twins' third pitcher, got the win with 1-3 innings of scoreless relief. Rick Aguilera pitched the

ninth for his 12th save.

Astros 8, Cubs 1

Astros 12, Cubs 3

Glenn Davis ended a 2-for-23 slump by hitting three homers and driving in nine runs in a doubleheader yesterday as the Houston Astros swept the Chicago Cubs 8-1, 12-3.

His three homers tied a club mark for a doubleheader set by Roman Mejias against the Milwaukee Braves on May 2, 1962.

In the opener, Davis had two home runs and five RBIs and Mike Scott ended a personal three-game losing streak as the Astros won 8-1. Davis had three hits in each game.

Davis' bases-clearing double in the eighth inning of the nightcap gave him four RBIs for the game and the Astros a 10-1 lead.

Results

Results			
American League			
Chicago WS	10	Detroit	4
Oakland	6	Cleveland	3
Kansas City	9	N.Y. Yankees	4
Minnesota	6	Boston	5
Baltimore	7	Texas	5
California	10	Milwaukee	3
Toronto	11	Seattle	4
National League			
Houston	8	Chicago Cubs	1
Houston	12	Chicago Cubs	3
Cincinnati	5	Montreal	3
N.Y. Mets	11	San Diego	0
Pittsburgh	10	San Francisco	4
Atlanta	12	Philadelphia	3
Los Angeles	8	St Louis	0

No clear favourite for French tourney

PARIS, May 27. (Reuters): The French Open tennis championship starting tomorrow have prompted an abnormal outburst of Gallic shoulder-shrugging in Parisian pavement cafes.

The eve of the Roland Garros tournament, normally a time for animated discussion of the favourites, has arrived to a silence which is almost deafening.

That expansive French gesture with the shoulders is the perfect, perhaps the only response to questions about the destination of the men's singles title.

Rarely in the history of the sport has a Grand Slam event begun without any clear idea of not just who should win but who could win.

The absence of Ivan Lendl and Mats Wilander, winners of six of the last eight titles between them, and of the American greats John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, has left a huge hole in the men's draw.

Recover
Add to that the poor or erratic form of top seeds Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, neither too happy on the slow clay surface in Paris, and it is apparent the search must go further.

Michael Chang, the American teenager who emerged as a shock winner last year? He has yet to recover from after a hip operation in November and has played and lost three matches on European clay this year.

After that you have to cast your eyes around the baseline specialists — Spaniard Juan Aguilera, winner in Hamburg, his compatriot Emilio Sanchez, Andres Gomez of Ecuador, Alberto Mancini of Argentina, Russian Andrei Chesnokov and Thomas Muster of Austria.

But none has ever reached a Grand Slam final and there are few pointers to show who will cope best with an arduous two-week slog through seven matches of best-of-five sets.

If Becker had not been overwhelmed by Aguilera in the Hamburg final and again by Spain's Jordi Arrese in the World Team Cup, showing his vulnerability against the out-and-out baseliners, this would seem his best chance of winning the title he craves most.

Experts
The West German, three times winner at Wimbledon, is the only player entered in the draw who ranks in an all-time top 20 chosen by a poll of 40 international experts and published by the sports magazine "Equipe" at the weekend.

He placed 18th in a vote which elected Sweden's six times Ronald Garros champion Bjorn Borg as the best player ever, closely followed by Australia's Rod Laver, last winner of the Grand Slam.

The rest, headed by McEnroe, follow a long way behind these two great champions of the past.

With the field so open, Roland Garros could produce a new and surprise victor as it did with Chang last year.

Boat carrying athletes capsizes, one dead

ANKARA, May 27. (Reuters): One person was killed and 10 were injured today, when a boat with 65 handball players from Algeria, Iraq and Soviet Azerbaijan capsized off Istanbul, the Anatolian news agency said.

"The passengers were dancing on the deck. I warned them not to crowd on one side of the boat but they did not listen. I

suddenly lost control of the wheel and we capsized," Anatolian quoted boat's captain Adem Cevik as saying after he swam ashore.

One player, believed to be an Algerian, died from head injuries in hospital and 10 people were slightly injured, the agency said.

"The accident occurred off the Sarayburnu coast around 10.15 am," an Istanbul coast guard official told Reuters.

Officials said all the passengers had been accounted for. Many had been rescued by fishing boats and some had swum ashore, they said.

The boat was taking the athletes to a picnic on the Asian shores of the Bosphorus waterway after an international handball tournament in Istanbul ended yesterday.

Senna wins Monaco

Alesi finishes second

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, May 27. (AP): Ayrton Senna of Brazil won the Grand Prix of Monaco for the second straight year today, leading from start to finish and beating France's Jean Alesi by 1.087 seconds.

For Senna, in a McLaren-Honda, it was his third Monaco victory. Alesi, in a Tyrrell-Ford, had to hold off Senna's teammate, Gerhard Berger of Austria, in the later stages of the 78-lap race over 259.58 kilometres (161.3 miles).

Thierry Boutsen of Belgium finished fourth, with Alex Caffi of Italy and Eric Bernard of France another lap back in fifth and sixth.

Senna had built a lead of more than 26 seconds by the end of 60 laps. With Berger pushing Alesi and Senna having slight

problems, the margin was cut over the last 18 laps.

The victory increased Senna's lead in the World Championship standings to 22, five more than Berger.

Senna finished in 1 hour, 52 minutes, 46.982 seconds, for an average speed of 138.097 kph (85.83 mph), which broke the record he set last year at 135.401 kph (84.15 mph).

"I was too aggressive early," Senna said. "After two thirds of the race I had problems with engine and started to slow down. And when you slow down, you lose the ultimate pressure in the engine. I was slowing down to minimise the risk."

Two of Senna's major rivals were involved in a first-lap crash that caused a restart of the race. Berger's McLaren-Honda

crashed into Alain Prost's Ferrari as Berger attempted to pass Prost on the inside of a right hairpin turn just past the casino. The wreckage blocked the track and caused a 30-minute delay.

Neither driver was injured and they jogged back to the pits to get into their back-up cars.

Prost started in second position behind pole-sitter Senna. Alesi was in the second row with Berger in the third.

Alesi darted inside Prost to take second just before the turn and Berger was attempting to do the same but ran out of room.

Prost's backup lasted just 30 laps. On the 31st he went into the pits with battery problems and never returned.

Another Ferrari, driven by Nigel Mansell of Britain, made a

hard charge during the race after a pit stop to change tires.

He moved from 16th to fourth by the 6th lap but went out with gearshift problems.

So far this season, Senna has won the US Grand Prix, Prost the Brazilian Grand Prix, and Riccardo Patrese the San Marino Grand Prix.

The next race is the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal on June 10.

Standings

World Drivers' Championship (after four rounds): 1. Senna 22 points, 2. Berger 16, 3. Alesi 13, 4. Alain Prost (France) 12, 5. Equal: Riccardo Patrese (Italy) Williams 9, 5. Equal: Boutsen 9, 7. Nelson Piquet (Brazil) Benetton 6, 8. Alessandro Nannini (Italy) Benetton 4, 9. Nigel Mansell (Britain) Ferrari 3, 10. Equal: Stefano Modena (Italy) Brabham 2, 10. Equal: Caffi 2, 12. Equal: Satoru Nakajima (Japan) Tyrrell 1, 12. Equal: Bernard 1.



Berger gets out of his McLaren after the crash. (Reuters wirephoto)



Senna leads Prost at the start of the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yugoslavs win Team Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 27. (Reuters): Goran Ivanisevic, who plays world number three Boris Becker in the first round of this week's French Open, took Yugoslavia to their first World Team Cup tennis title today.

The 18-year-old, ranked 43rd in the world, beat Jim Courier 3-6 7-5 6-1 to give Yugoslavia, competing in the event for the first time, a 2-0 winning lead over the United States after the two singles of their best of three final.

Goran Pripic, who yesterday convincingly beat Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the top seed in Paris, gave Yugoslavia a 1-0 lead when he beat world number four Brad Gilbert 6-4 6-4.

After losing the first set, Ivanisevic showed he has the stamina to cause problems for West Germany's Becker in France by battling back against Courier to

take the second set 7-5.

He made a key service break in the second game of the third set to cruise to victory and head confidently for Paris.

The Yugoslavs turned out to be the surprise package of the seven-day event, beating clay-court specialists Argentina, Austria and favourites Sweden to win their round-robin group and reach today's final.

Pripic, winner of all of his three group matches before today, was expected to beat 28-year-old Gilbert, who is not a strong player on the slow clay courts.

But Ivanisevic was not tipped to upset world number 17 Courier, who had shown superb form during the week and won all of his group matches with confidence.

20 yachts challenge for Cup

SAN DIEGO, May 27. (Reuters): The Soviet Union, Japan and even landlocked Switzerland will be among the challengers for the 1992 America's Cup, the San Diego Yacht Club announced today after a midnight deadline for entries had passed.

A total of 20 yacht clubs from 14 nations will race the new America's Cup class of 70-foot

(22 metre) monohull yachts in May 1992 off San Diego Bay—a record number of yacht clubs and of challenging countries.

The general manager of the 1992 Cup, Tom Ehman, said nine countries would be racing for the first time: Denmark, Scotland, West Germany, Japan, Switzerland, the Soviet Union, Spain, Yugoslavia and Sweden.

Hooligans rampage

EAST BERLIN, May 27. (Reuters): Hundreds of hooligans rampaged through East Berlin and Dresden, wielding stones and chains and smashing cars after the East German Soccer League Championship ended.

Police said they arrested 40 people and confiscated weapons including knives, batons and chains during several hours of violence in the two cities last night.

Turkey hold Ireland to goalless draw

IZMIR, Turkey, May 27. (Reuters): World Cup finalists Ireland faced a mounting injury crisis after extending their unbeaten run to 12 matches in a lacklustre 0-0 soccer friendly against Turkey today.

With two days remaining before the deadline for submitting their 22-man World Cup squad to the International Football Federation (FIFA), Ireland

were jolted by injuries to David O'Leary and Andy Townsend.

O'Leary suffered a hamstring strain and Townsend a groin injury, jolting midfield casualties Ray Houghton, Ronnie Whelan and Kevin Moran, whose absence here from Ireland's last major warm-up before the finals in Italy was clearly felt.

Turkey, playing their first game under former Danish manager Piontek, were as listless as the Irish in the energy-sapping conditions, and the match produced few clear-cut chances.

Schwantz finishes first in W. Germany

MUERBURGRING, West Germany, May 27. (UPI): American Kevin Schwantz, overcoming the loneliness of the long-distance rider, outpaced the field on his powerful Suzuki 500cc machine to win today's German Motor Cycle Grand Prix.

Four times fastest in training, the Texan finished nearly 12 seconds ahead of his nearest rival. "It was a long and lonely race," Schwantz said laconically. "It seemed to go on forever."

Schwantz won the 30-lap race totalling 136.20 kilometre in 50 minutes 18.517 seconds (average speed 162.509 kph).

Yamaha's Wayne Rainey (USA) and Scotman Niall MacKenzie (Suzuki), but he was helped when the front line competition was wiped out in the third lap.

Honda rider Michael Doohan of Australia started from the front row and shot off like a rocket with the Texan on his wheel. Schwantz slipped past in the second lap and then, in a spectacular spill, Doohan and Italian Pier Francesco Chili—fully 10 metres behind and bugging the same line on the circuit—crashed in unison. They were transported off to Dr Claudio Costa's medical clinic.

Chili sustained a broken bone in the heel, foot ligament and shoulder injuries. Doohan was reported to have minor shoulder injuries.

The gap left by Doohan and Chili in an already depleted 500cc field left the way free for the extrovert Schwantz to enjoy himself.

By the halfway mark he had a seven-second lead on second-placed Rainey. Rainey, the runaway leader in the world championships so far, was never a serious contender. He crashed in the fourth training session yesterday and rode today hin-

dered by a broken finger.

When the Texan crossed the line he had clocked up an effortless 11.868 second lead and performed his now well-known lap of honour alternating on the rear wheel and standing up in the saddle with a double-listed victory salute.

It was Schwantz's first Grand Prix victory in the current season and took him into second place in the standings with 67 points to Rainey's 94.

Results

1. Kevin Schwantz (USA) Suzuki, 50 minutes 18.517 seconds (average speed 162.509 kph)
2. Wayne Rainey (USA) Yamaha, 30:30.385
3. Niall MacKenzie (USA) Suzuki, 30:45.723
4. Christian Sarron (France) Yamaha, 31:03.546
5. Sito Pons (Spain) Honda, 31:02.532
6. Jean-Philippe Ruggia (France) Yamaha, 31:20.705

■ In Rijeka, Yugoslavia, Italian rider Eros Manfredini was killed in an accident shortly after the start of a 250cc European Championship motorcycle race today, track doctors said.

Manfredini, 21, was involved in pile-up, involving 12 other riders, on the first bend of the race.

The crash happened after Luxembourg rider Ivo Pavalainen hit a straw-ball 300 metres from the start while travelling at 200 kph.

He fell and his Yamaha's petrol tank exploded. Other riders crashed in the confusion and Manfredini, also riding a Yamaha, was hit by motorcyclists trying to escape the melee. He died instantly.

Track doctors said six riders were injured in the accident, including Briton Nigel Biswirth and Dutchman Joergen van der Gruenbergh who were taken to Rijeka's emergency medical centre.

Baggio wants to meet Dalai Lama

FLORENCE, Italy, May 27. (Reuters): Italy's strict World Cup preparations will probably prevent the world's most expensive soccer player Roberto Baggio from fulfilling a wish as a keen follower of Buddhism.

"The Dalai Lama is in Tuscany. I would so much like to meet him," Baggio, currently training with the Italian squad at Coverciano outside Florence, said.

Baggio, who became the world's most expensive player when Juventus bought him from Fiorentina for \$13 million earlier this month, rooms alone at Coverciano unlike most of his teammates because he likes solitude. He reads Buddhist philosophy books and practices meditation.

The Dalai Lama is currently touring Italy.

Luyendyk wins

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, May 27. (Reuters): Arie Luyendyk of the Netherlands burned up the speed record by 15 miles per hour (24 kph) to win the 74th Indianapolis 500-mile motor car race with a new mark of 185.9 mph (299.2 kph) today.

American Bobby Rahal, who set the old record in 1986, was second. Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi was third.

Italian fan

GENOA, May 27. (Reuters): An Italian hooligan fan was sentenced to silence on soccer for the whole of the World Cup finals today when Pope John Paul II visited Genoa.

Several times for involvement in crowd violence at matches, may not meet in public or private with groups of more than three people or speak to anyone about football, a Genoa tribunal ruled yesterday.

Paz triumphs

STRASBOURG, France, May 27. (Reuters): Final result in the \$150,000 Strasbourg women's tennis tournament today: Mercedes Paz (Argentina) beat Ann Grossman (USA) 6-2 6-3.

Bradley ahead

CORNING, New York, May 27. (Reuters): Pat Bradley fired her way from three shots behind at the beginning of play yesterday to a four-stroke lead at the Corning Classic golf tournament.

Skins Game

FRISCO, Texas, May 27. (Reuters): Nancy Lopez won \$95,000 and Betsy King earned \$45,000 while Joanne Carner and Jan Stephenson were shut out on the opening day of the LPGA's first Skins Game yesterday.

Atlanta Classic

MARIETTA, Georgia, May 26. (Reuters): Keith Clearwater has been battling a three-year slump but yesterday he shot a solid six-under-par 66 to take a two-stroke lead after the third round of the \$1 million Atlanta Classic golf tournament.

Campese dropped

SYDNEY, May 27. (Reuters): Australia have dropped winger David Campese, international rugby union's most prolific try scorer, for the first time against France on June 9 after he delayed his return from Italy.

SAS bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played yesterday:
1. Rabah Abboudi & Jamila Akel
2. Dona Materny & Bianca Mousalli
3. Suzanne Catermole & Margaret Maynard

Security operation

ROME, May 27. (Reuters): A security operation involving 3,000 police will be mounted on Thursday when Pope John Paul II inaugurates Rome's refurbished Olympic Stadium, site of the World Cup soccer final.

Tight security

OLBIA, Sardinia, May 27. (Reuters): The first batch of English soccer fans to follow their team to Sardinia for next month's World Cup were greeted yesterday by tight security on the island, which fears it could be a flashpoint for hooliganism.

Playoff final

LONDON, May 27. (Reuters): Cambridge beat Chesterfield 1-0 in the English Fourth Division playoff final at Wembley yesterday to clinch promotion to the Third Division.

Open champion

MARSEILLE, France, May 27. (Reuters): American teenager Michael Chang left a Marseille tennis court in tears after an exhibition match yesterday, just two days before he begins the defence of his French Open title. Chang, who played with a bandaged hand in his defeat by Ecuador's Andres Gomez, said he was suffering from tendinitis in his left wrist but would definitely play at Roland Garros.

Promotion clinched

LONDON, May 27. (Reuters): Notts County beat Tranmere 2-0 in the English Third Division playoff final at Wembley today to clinch promotion to the Second Division.

Hall hammers Kiwis for century



Richard Hadlee

HOVE, England, May 27. (Reuters): Young Sussex opener Jamie Hall took full advantage of New Zealand's unhelpful injury problems to score his maiden first-class century on the opening day of the touring team's three-day match at Hove yesterday.

The 22-year-old Hall had failed to reach double figures in his four previous first-class innings this season but he put that depressing sequence behind him in splendid fashion.

When Sussex declared at 300 for four, Hall had reached an unbeaten 120 during a six-hour stay.

Hall, who hit 16 boundaries, was undoubtedly aided by New Zealand's mounting injury problems.

With Richard Hadlee sidelined by a broken bone in his hand and Martin Snedden with a strained stomach muscle, the attack was further weakened with injuries to two more seamen.

Danny Morrison strained a groin muscle while fielding. He returned to take two wickets but was later forced to leave the field. Soon afterwards Shane Thom-

son suffered a recurrence of his recent thigh injury and joined Morrison in the treatment room.

New Zealand's unhappy day was made complete when they lost Trevor Franklin for nought while reaching 22 for one in reply.

Scoreboard
SUSSEX first innings
J. Hall not out 124
J. Hall not out 2
T. Dodemaide b Morrison 4
A. Wells c Parore b Thompson 96
C. Wells c Greatbatch b Pringle 3
I. Gould not out 5
Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-1, nb-5) 12
Total (for four wickets dec 1) 300
Fall of wickets: 1-99, 2-103, 3-269, 4-294.

Did not bat: P. Moores, I. Salisbury, B. Donelan, R. Bunting, A. Bannington.

Bowling: Morrison 10-2-35-2, Pringle 19-3-66-1, Thompson 18-4-6-52-1, Bracewell 34-2-99-0, Priest 16-4-42-0.

NEW ZEALAND first innings
T. Franklin b Dodemaide 0
J. Crowe not out 7
M. Priest not out 15
Extras 22
Total (for one wicket) 22
Fall of wicket: 1-0.

To bat: J. Wright, M. Crowe, M. Greatbatch, J. Bracewell, S. Thom-

son, A. Parore, C. Pringle, D. Morrison.

Sewing the date: Dodemaide 3-0-10-1, Bunting 3-0-12-0.

■ World record Test wicket-taker Hadlee said yesterday he is determined to play in New Zealand's opening Test against England next month despite breaking a bone in his hand on Friday.

"I've got to believe I'm going to play in the first Test," said the veteran pace bowler, injured by a ball from England fast bowler Chris Lewis during New Zealand's defeat in the second one-day international.

"I tend to heal a bit quicker than most people. If you are psychologically right, then you've got a better chance of getting fit."

The 38-year-old Hadlee, making his last tour before retiring, is particularly keen to take part in the first test at Trent Bridge where he played for the Nottinghamshire county side for more than a decade.

"There is obviously a big of nostalgia about me playing at Trent Bridge," said Hadlee, the only bowler to have taken more than 400 Test wickets.

Botham stops Warwickshire

LONDON, May 27. (Reuters): Ian Botham put the brakes on title-chasing Warwickshire by taking two quick wickets after they looked set for a high score against English county champions Worcestershire on the first day of their three-day match yesterday.

The former England all-rounder grabbed two for 24 in 12 overs after Andy Moles (76) and Asif Din (70) had shared a second-wicket stand of 151.

Botham had Din caught in the slips and then trapped Dermot Reeve left before for 21 to slow the scoring rate.

Warwickshire declared at 295 for eight after 102 overs and in reply Worcestershire had made 111 without loss by the close.

Tim Bown scored his first century of the season to help Leicestershire pile up 352 for four in their match against Somerset at Grace Road.

Boon batted for nearly five hours and hit 13 fours in his 128 on an easy-paced pitch.

James Whitaker shared a second-wicket partnership of 161 with Boon before being dis-



Ian Botham

who has taken only five wickets at a cost of 311 runs this season.

Scores

At Leicester: Leicestershire 352 for four (T. Boon 128, J. Whitaker 89, L. Potter 41 not out) v Somerset.

At Edgbaston: Warwickshire 295 for eight declared in 102 overs (A. Moles 76, Asif Din 70). Worcestershire 111 for no wicket after five overs.

At Headingley: Yorkshire 300 for eight declared in 99.5 overs (P. Robinson 60, S. Kelleet 56, K. Shine four for 52). Hampshire 28 for no wicket after seven overs.

At Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan 205 in 67 overs (A. Butcher 46, P. Allott four for 23). Lancashire 187 for three after 43 overs (G. Mendis 80 not out, N. Fairbrother 60).

At Lord's: Middlesex 301 for seven declared in 97.4 overs (M. Ramprakash 64, P. Downton 63, M. Roseberry 50, K. Curran four for 64). Gloucestershire 25 for no wicket after nine overs.

At Derby: Nottinghamshire 222 in 81.2 overs (T. Robinson 69, C. Broad 45). Derbyshire 71 for two after 25 overs.